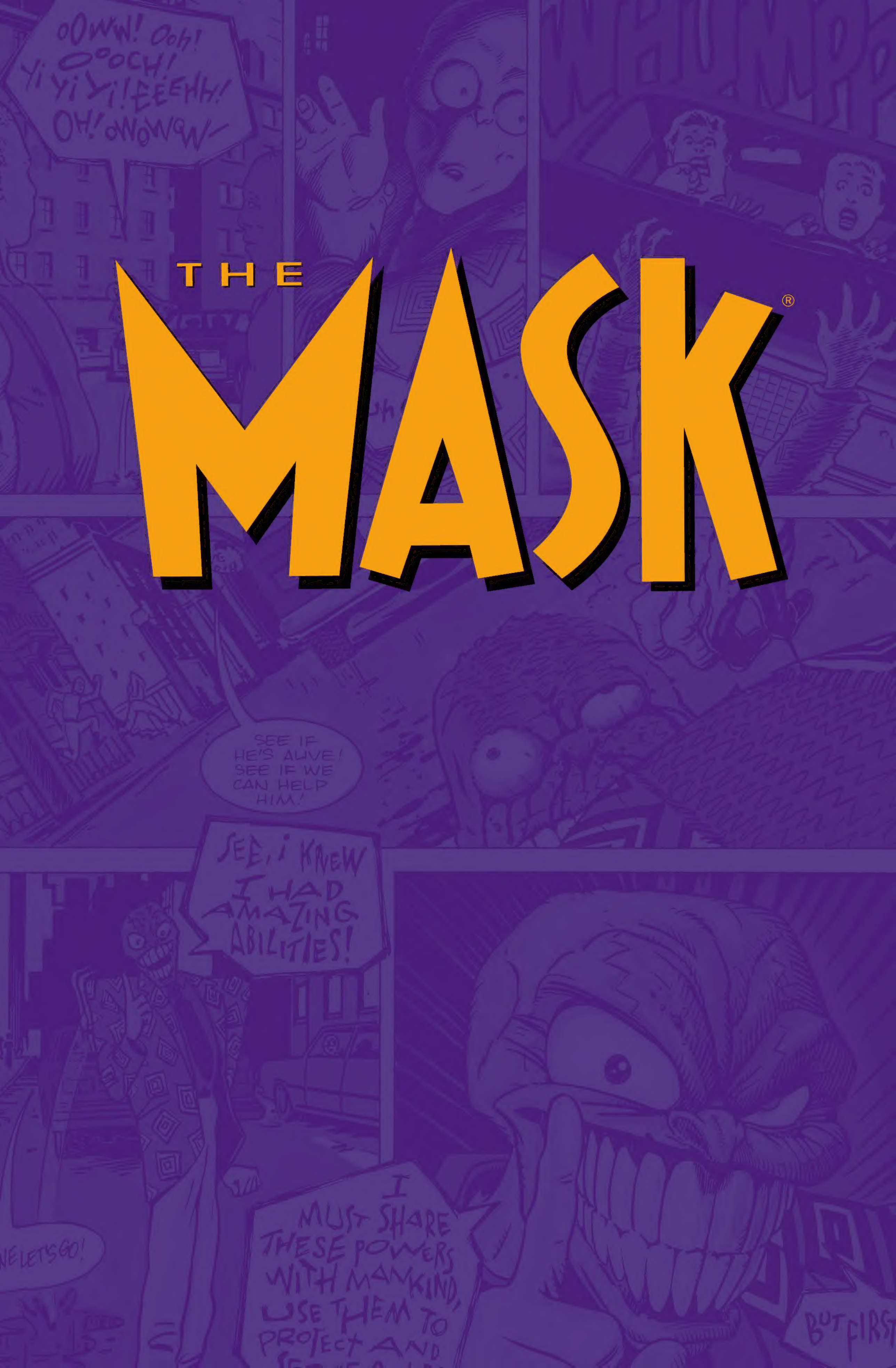
THE MASK®

OMNIBUS

JOHN ARCUDI
DOUG MAHNKE
MATT WEBB
KEITH WILLIAMS
RICH PERROTTA
CHRIS CHALENOR
GREGORY WRIGHT
PAT BROSSEAU
DAVID JACKSON
LOIS BUHALIS

THE MASK®


oOWW! Ooh!
O°OCH!
Yi yi yi! EEHH!
OH! oWoWW-
SEE IF HE'S ALIVE! SEE IF WE CAN HELP HIM!
SEE, i KNEW I HAD AMAZING ABILITIES!
I MUST SHARE THESE POWERS WITH MANKIND, USE THEM TO PROTECT AND
NE LET'S GO!
BUT FIRST

THE MASK®

OMNIBUS VOLUME 1

DARK HORSE BOOKS

CONTENTS

THE MASK 5
THE MASK RETURNS 151
THE MASK STRIKES BACK 253

cover illustration DOUG MAHNKE

publisher MIKE RICHARDSON
second edition editor DANIEL CHABON
second edition assistant editor BRETT ISRAEL
first edition editor CHRIS WARNER
series editors MIKE RICHARDSON, MICHAEL EURY, and GREG VEST
designer JASON RALL
digital art technician JOSIE CHRISTENSEN

THE MASK® created by MIKE RICHARDSON

Facebook.com/DarkHorseComics
Twitter.com/DarkHorseComics

Advertising Sales: (503) 905-2315

To find a comics shop in your area, visit comicshoplocator.com.

THE MASK® Omnibus Volume 1
© 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 2008, 2019 by Dark Horse Comics LLC. The Mask® and all prominent characters and their distinctive likeness are trademarks of Dark Horse Comics LLC. Dark Horse Books® and the Dark Horse logo are registered trademarks of Dark Horse Comics LLC. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of the copyright holders. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication are either the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

This volume collects material previously published as the Dark Horse graphic novels *The Mask*, *The Mask Returns*, and *The Mask Strikes Back*.

Published by
Dark Horse Books
a division of
Dark Horse Comics LLC
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

darkhorse.com

Second edition: March 2019
ISBN 978-1-50671-253-6

Digital ISBN:
978-1-50671-256-7

NEIL HANKERSON Executive Vice President • TOM WEDDLE Chief Financial Officer • RANDY STRADLEY Vice President of Publishing • NICK MCWHORTER Chief Business Development Officer • DALE LAFOUNTAIN Chief Information Officer • MATT PARKINSON Vice President of Marketing • CARA NIECE Vice President of Production and Scheduling • MARK BERNARDI Vice President of Book Trade and Digital Sales • KEN LIZZI General Counsel • DAVE MARSHALL Editor in Chief • DAVEY ESTRADA Editorial Director • CHRIS WARNER Senior Books Editor • CARY GRAZZINI Director of Specialty Projects • LIA RIBACCHI Art Director • VANESSA TODD-HOLMES Director of Print Purchasing • MATT DRYER Director of Digital Art and Prepress • MICHAEL GOMBOS Senior Director of Licensed Publications • KARI YADRO Director of Custom Programs • KARI TORSON Director of International Licensing

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Arcudi, John, writer. | Mahnke, Doug, artist.
Title: The Mask omnibus / John Arcudi, Doug Mahnke [and others].
Other titles: Mask (Milwaukie, Or. : 1991)
Description: First hardcover edition. | Milwaukie, OR : Dark Horse Books, March 2019. | "This volume collects material previous published in Dark Horse graphic novels The Mask, The Mask Returns, and The Mask Strikes Back."
Identifiers: LCCN 2018045924 | ISBN 9781506712536
Subjects: LCSH: Graphic novels.
Classification: LCC PN6728.M384 M39 2019 | DDC 741.5/973--dc23
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2018045924

THE MASK

script
JOHN ARCUDI

art
DOUG MAHNKE

colors
DOUG MAHNKE and MATT WEBB

lettering
PAT BROSSEAU and DAVID JACKSON

title illustration
DOUG MAHNKE

YEAH, THAT'S THE ONE.

THAT'LL BE $135.00 WITH THE TAX.

AND WE DON'T DO NO GIFT WRAPPING.

THAT'S FINE. IF YOU COULD JUST GIVE ME A SMALL BOX FOR IT, THAT'D BE GREAT. IT MIGHT START RAINING AGAIN.

the mask!™

WHO'S LAUGHING NOW?

GEE, I GUESS IT'S STOPPED RAINING FOR GOOD.

HEY!

SPLITCH

YOU #*@! PILE OF @(£+%.!)X'S!! I JUST WASHED THIS CAR!

Ahh, IT'S MY OWN FAULT! I SHOULD NEVER TAKE THIS BABY OUT AFTER IT RAINS.

STILL, THOSE GUYS DON'T OWN THE STREETS. I GUESS COURTESY ISN'T ON THEIR AGENDA.

HUH?

EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, YOU JUST CALLED US A "#*@/ PILE OF @&+%)x's." IS THAT NOT CORRECT?

uh, um, WELL... uh.

Ah hah! JUST AS I SUSPECTED.

I IMAGINE YOU'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE SLANDERING THE BUTCHERS AGAIN.

WHACK!

OOOFF!

PERHAPS EVEN THRICE. HA HA HA HA.

SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? LET'S GO WASTE THE NAZIS.

SOS

BZZ

WOW. I MUST BE *REALLY* UPSET.

BETTER GET A GRIP.

3

OH, IT'S YOU.

NICE, KATHERINE, REAL NICE.

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE BEEN REAL NICE TO *ME* THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

LOOK, I'M SORRY ABOUT LAST THURSDAY. I KNOW I'VE BEEN BAD, BUT I'M TRYING TO MAKE AMENDS.

I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING.

YOU KNOW, STANLEY, YOU CAN'T SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS WITH A GIFT. I'M A LITTLE MORE COMPLEX THAN THAT.

WHAT KIND OF PRESENT?

OOOOH! IT'S BEAUTIFUL! *YOU* CAN'T AFFORD THIS!

I'VE BEEN GAGA OVER THIS SINCE I FIRST SAW IT DOWNTOWN

IT GOT A LITTLE MUDDY WHEN—

C'MON, I KNOW JUST THE SPOT FOR IT.

THERE! THE PRIDE OF MY COLLECTION!

WELL, IF YOU DON'T WANT *ME*, AT LEAST YOU'LL TAKE MY PRESENTS.

THESE OBJECTS ARE CONSTANTS, WHILE YOU'RE SO MOODY, ALWAYS CHANGING.

STANLEY, DON'T SAY THAT. YOU KNOW I REALLY LOVE YOU. BUT SOMETIMES YOU MAKE IT SO HARD.

SAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?

HONEY, THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS FIGHT WITH YOU. IF WE COOAAHHG!

OH, OH, PUT ME DOWN, STAN, PUT ME DOWN!

NO, WE WON'T FIGHT. NOW YOU JUST LAY BACK AND SHOW MOMMA WHERE IT HURTS.

LATE THAT NIGHT.

UH, WHAD DIME IZ ID?

SFRAMMA MAAMA FRAP BATHROOM.

IS TOMORROW SUNDAY OR MONDAY?

WAAUGH!!

JEEZ, IT'S JUST THAT MASK I BOUGHT FOR KATH.

SHE MUSTA LEFT IT HERE TO SCARE ME.

WELL, LET'S SEE HOW SHE LIKES IT.

WHAT THE--?

HMMM.

TEE HEE.

GEE, I FEEL PRETTY GOOD.

HEY, A GUTTER PIPE.

IF I WERE IN MY RIGHT MIND, I MIGHT WONDER ABOUT ALL THIS.

Heh, Heh. JUST LIKE IN THE COMICS.

AS IT IS, I DON'T EVEN THINK THIS IS MY RIGHT HEAD.

BOY, I BET I GOT ALL KINDS OF SUPER POWERS AND STUFF.

HEY, LOOK, IT'S CHER'S KID! NICE FACE, PAL!

SON, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT SORT OF POWERS YOU'RE DEALING WITH. I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO HURT YOU.

CLANG

YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE.

Heh, Heh. HERE GOES NOTHIN'.

WELL-I-WANNA-SEE-YOU-TRY.

7

OOWW! OOH! OOOCH! YI YI YI! EEEHH! OH! OWOWW—

UH OH.

WHUMPP!

SEE IF HE'S ALIVE! SEE IF WE CAN HELP HIM!

SEE, I KNEW I HAD AMAZING ABILITIES!

HE'S FINE LETS GO!

I MUST SHARE THESE POWERS WITH MANKIND, USE THEM TO PROTECT AND SERVE OTHERS IN NEED.

BUT FIRST...

NOK NOK NOK

SEE WHO IT IS.

HEY, GUYS, THIS FRUIT HERE SAYS WE'RE MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE.

SAY, DID YOU JUST CALL ME *FRUIT?*

WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT!

SMACK!!

CRACK

BAD MOVE, MAN. YOU JUST TRESPASSED ONTO BUTCHER TERRITORY.

AH, SO YOU'RE INTO REAL ESTATE, EH?

WELL HERE'S A COUPLE OF FREE ACHERS!

EEEEEE!!

DON'T TELL ME YOU GET ANY GIRLS WITH A FACE LIKE THAT.

JUST LET ME ADJUST THIS-

TRUST ME, YOU'LL THANK ME LATER.

KRAK

WAAAAAIIIIWWWW

FORE!

CATCH, BOBO.

AIEEE gh.

HMM, I WONDER WHAT THIS IS FOR.

BOOM

NOW I GET IT!

RATTATATATATATA

BUTCHER

HEY.

THAT WAS EASY!

T.T.F.N. AND THANKS FOR THE BEER.

HUH. MORNING ALREADY?

WATCH OUT, STAN! I'M COMING IN, READY OR NOT!

GASP

SLAM!

KATHERINE? IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?

WRONG? THERE'S A MONSTER IN THERE!

MONSTER, HUH? I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T MAD AT ME ANYMORE.

NO, I MEAN IT, I REALLY SAW SOME KIND OF MONSTER IN THERE.

YOU MUST'VE BEEN DREAMING, THAT'S ALL.

I MEAN, IF THERE HAD BEEN A MONSTER IN THERE, DON'T YOU THINK *I'D* HAVE NOTICED IT?

...YET IN SPITE OF THE WILDNESS OF THESE CLAIMS, POLICE HAVE ISSUED AN APB FOR THIS SO-CALLED MASKED MADMAN.

12

7:10 AM

Louis Winston, two months before his death

STAN, DO YOU WANT TO GO OUT FOR DINNER TONIGHT?

STAN?

STAN, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

CLINGH

BIKER ASSHOLES - TOM RICHMOND
MELROSE SEAFOOD - LOUIS WINSTON
YONKY MUFFLER
MRS. GAZZO
GARY McWHISTER

STA-AANZ?!

WOULD YOU SHUT THE HELL UP! I'M TRYING TO WATCH THE NEWS.

JEEZ.

WHAT REVENGE MEANS TO ME.

WHAT'D YOU SAY?! WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY TO ME?!

YOU HEARD ME.

YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT I HEARD YOU!

A MONTH AGO YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THE NEWS. AND YOU DRESSED LIKE A HUMAN BEING...

.. INSTEAD OF A PSYCHOTIC BOY SCOUT.

ALRIGHT! I'VE HEARD ENOUGH OF THOSE COMMENTS!

WHAT I DO AND HOW I DRESS IS MY BUSINESS!

NOT WHEN YOU'RE DOING IT IN MY HOUSE!!

YOU COME OVER HERE AND NEVER GET OUT OF THAT DAMN CHAIR, READING YOUR STUPID MAGAZINES.

YOU FANTASIZE MORE ABOUT GUNS THAN GIRLS!

YOU WANT ME OUT OF THE CHAIR? YOU GOT IT! NOW LET ME SHOW **YOU** SOMETHING!!

STAN, WAIT.

STANLEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M GOING OUT.

WITH MY MASK?

HEY, I BOUGHT IT.

SLAM

8:34 AM

YORKY'S MUFFLERS

THEO! WHUT IN HELL YOU DOIN' UNDER THET CAR?!

JUST TURNIN' THE OIL DRAIN PLUG TOO TIGHT TO STRIP THE THREADS 'N MAKE THIS FELLA THINK HE'S SPRUNG A LEAK.

OH, OK. I THOUGHT YOU WERE ACTSHULLY TRYIN' TO *FIX* IT.

NO WAY. I LEARNS FROM MY MISTAKES. I'LL NEVER FORGET YO' FACE WHEN I REPLACED THAT FELLA'S BEAT UP OLD MUFFLER.

HEY, THEM THINGS COST MONEY. FORTUNATELY, I HAD YOU PUNCTURE HIS BRAKE LINES TO MAKE UP FO' THE LOSS.

HAW! 'COURSE NOW IF'N YOU SEE A *BIG* PROBLEM WHEN YOU'S HIRED TA FIX A SMALL ONE, IT'S OKAY TA FIX THE SMALL ONE.

THEO

LIKE THAT BALD GUY WITH THE HOT GIRLFRIEND, THE ONE WHO CAME IN TO HAVE HIS SOFT PLUGS REPLACED?

BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW HIS HEAD GASKET WAS CRACKED.

HE WAS BACK IN LESS THAN A HOUR. SUCKER!

WHUT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN?

IDKISS! hee hee hee! STANLEY IDKISS.

THEO

Ahem...

I'M NOT GOING TO PAY A LOT FOR THIS MUFFLER.

9:53 AM, FRED WILLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

THAT'S STILL NOT RIGHT, JIMMY.

DO IT AGAIN.

UH, T-U-B-U...

HA HA HA HA HA HA

UH NO, IT'S T-U-E-B-

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

NO, JIMMY, THAT IS NOT HOW YOU SPELL "TUBERCULOSIS." WOULD ANYONE ELSE CARE TO TRY?

SURE, FATSO. CHOMP CHOMP I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU WANT, BUT YOU'D BETTER PICK UP THAT GARBAGE!!

WELL, IF YOU INSIST, MRS. GAZZO.

HA HA HA HA HA HA

PUT ME DOWN THIS INSTANT!!!

MAKE UP YOUR MIND!

WHOMP

JIMMY, —PLEASE HELP ME.

I THINK... I THINK— I'VE BROKEN— SOMETHING.

Ahh, SHUT UP, YOU'LL THE WORRY KID.

NOW, JIMMY, CAN YOU SPELL "DEADMEAT"?

AH WELL, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAAAY. WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

CLASS DISMISSED.

SINGLE FRIGGIN' FILE, CHILDREN, ♡♡♡.

10:46 AM

YORK'S MUFFLERS

HEY, KELLAWAY! GOT A PROBLEM WITH YOUR MUFFLER?

WHO WRITES YOUR MATERIAL, VERTER?

HEY, I NEED THIS GALLOWS HUMOR TO SURVIVE MY JOB.

I'VE HEARD IT A MILLION TIMES. WHATTA WE GOT?

JEEZ!

WELL THERE'S ONE OF 'EM.

AND THERE'S NUMBER TWO.

THE ONLY WITNESS SAID A WEIRD LOOKING GUY WITH A BIG HEAD LEFT HERE ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO.

WHY'D HE CHOOSE *MY* TOWN?

NOT HIM AGAIN! WHO IS THIS MANIAC? WHY'S HE DOING THIS?

LIEUTENANT!! WE GOT ANOTHER CALL OVER AT THE SCHOOL!

SUPER.

12:17 PM

סנוק

SO-- TRYIN' TO GET AWAY?

WHERE'S YER LUNCH?

PLEASE... LEAVE ME ALONE.

DIDN'T YA HEAR THE KID? CUT THE CRAP!

HEY MISTER, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YER HEAD?

WHY, I DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH MY HEAD.

BONK

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOURS? heh heh.

HEY THERE, MRS. KELLAWAY.

EH? WHO'S THAT?

WAIT A MOMENT. LET ME GET MY GLASSES ON.

OH, IT'S YOU, MR. IPKISS. NICE TO SEE YOU.

SUCH A NICE BOY, THAT STANLEY.

WHEW! WHAT A DAY.

I'D BETTER TRY TO GET SOME SLEEP BEFORE KATH GETS HOME FROM WORK.

TOMORROW. I'LL START BEING A SUPER HERO. FIRST THING TOMORROW...

5:28 PM

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, OR WHY HE'S CHANGED, BUT I KNOW IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOU.

SO MAYBE THE BEST WAY TO HELP STAN IS TO GET RID OF YOU.

SMELLS GREAT, BABE.

IT'LL BE READY IN A MINUTE. HAVE A SEAT.

STANLEY, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.

SAY, BABE, WHERE'S THE MASK?

YOU KNOW, STAN, YOU'VE CHANGED A LOT LATELY.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE MASK IS?

A MONTH AGO YOU THOUGHT THE TERM "BABE" WAS STUPID.

KATHY. WHERE-IS-THE-MASK?

I...I THREW IT OUT.

WHAT?

WHERE IS IT!? I GOTTA GET IT! HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?

STAN! LOOK AT YOURSELF! LOOK HOW YOU'RE ACTING.

YOU'VE CHANGED SO MUCH. ALL THOSE BOOKS, THAT WEIRD LIST OF NAMES. THE WAY YOU TALK, THE WAY YOU ACT. I DON'T FEEL I KNOW YOU ANYMORE.

THAT MASK WAS A PRESENT TO *ME*, BUT I DIDN'T WANT IT ANYMORE, SO I THREW IT OUT. IS THAT THING MORE IMPORTANT THAN ME?

SHE'S RIGHT. THAT THING HAS CHANGED ME. I MEAN, JUST BECAUSE MRS. GAZZO EMBARRASSED ME AS A KID WAS NO REASON TO OFF HER.

IT'S ALL GOTTEN SO OUT-OF-HAND. I DON'T WANT THAT THING CONTROLLING ME. I'M BETTER OFF WITHOUT THE MASK.

BESIDES, I ALREADY GOT EVERYONE ON MY LIST.

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, HONEY. I THINK I JUST HAVE SOME UNRESOLVED ANGER.

JUST GIVE ME SOME TIME TO WORK IT OUT, AND I'LL BE OKAY.

OH, STAN. I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT. NOW, HOW 'BOUT SOME STEW?

THAT WAS GREAT, KATH. I'M GONNA GO WATCH SOME TV.

WHAT ON EARTH?

HOO HOO HAHAA

HOO HOO, LOOKIT THAT PICTURE! NOW HOW D'YOU SUPPOSE HE GOT THAT MUFFLER DOWN HIS THROAT?

AW, NUTS. I FORGOT ALL ABOUT MCWHIRTER.

THAT S.O.B. STILL OWES ME SIXTY BUCKS.

HEY!

THAT'S IT, YOU SICK PIG. GET OUTTA MY APARTMENT, AND OUTTA MY LIFE!

NOT ANOTHER WORD!

JUST GET THE HELL OUT!! NOW!!

CAN I HAVE THE MASK BACK?

OKAY, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL. BUT JUST LET ME SAY ONE THING, OKAY?

YOW!!

HAVE GUN, WILL USE.

WELL, WITHOUT *STAN* AROUND TO OBSESS OVER THE THING, I FIGURED I DIDN'T HAVE TO THROW IT AWAY. IT REALLY IS A NICE PIECE, LYDIA. YOU SHOULD SEE IT.

LISTEN, DARLING, IT'S REALLY LATE AND I HAVE TO GET UP EARLY TOMORROW, SOOOO...

MEANWHILE, DOWNSTAIRS AND IN THE BACK...

I *KNEW* IT, I *KNEW* KATHY WAS LYING. SHE NEVER DID THROW THAT MASK OUT.

SHE JUST WANTED IT FOR HERSELF. *THAT'S* WHY SHE BROKE UP WITH ME.

WELL, I'LL SHOW *HER.*

AHH, WHAT TIMING.

IT WAS A WHOLE LOT EASIER COMING *DOWN* THIS THING.

THERE!

=UHMF= JUST A LITTLE FURTHER, COME ON, STAN OLD BOY, YOU CAN DO IT!

WHAM

THAT CAME FROM THE *BATHROOM*!!

I'VE GOT TO CALL THE POLICE

YES, THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S IN THE APARTMENT *NOW*.

PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT TO GET OVER HERE IMMEDIATELY! I'M REALLY SCARED.

LOOK, LADY, =CHOMP-CHOMP= I'M ONLY THE DISPATCHER, NOT A ONE-MAN POLICE FORCE.

NOW, WHAT'D YOU SAY YOUR ADDRESS WAS?

NO SIGN OF KATHY. I GUESS SHE SLEPT THROUGH MY DEATH HOWL.

IT'S A CINCH I'LL DIE WAITING FOR THE POLICE. I'D BETTER TAKE SOME SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.

NOW, WHILE THE LITTLE BITCH IS SLEEPING, I'LL JUST SNEAK IN AND TAKE WHAT'S RIGHTFULLY MINE.

QUEST!

Oooohh...

STAN!?!

POLICE OFFICERS! WE HAVE A COMPLAINT OF A BREAK IN!

OF COURSE. NOW THE POLICE ARRIVE.

GOOD EVENING, OFFICERS. COME IN, PLEASE, ALTHOUGH I'M AFRAID I CALLED YOU HERE FOR NOTHING.

EXCUSE ME, MISS?

WELL, YOU SEE, MY BOYFRIEND WAS OUT OF TOWN, BUT HE CAME HOME A NIGHT EARLY TO SURPRISE ME, AND I THOUGHT HE WAS A BURGLAR.

SOME SURPRISE, HUH?

OOWWW. I'LL SAY, YOU LYING SKANK.

AAHH. THERE YOU ARE, PAL.

SO, I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT IT WAS ALL JUST A BIG MISTAKE.

YEAH, SO GET THE HELL OUT OF OUR HOUSE!

WHAT WAS THAT?

OH heh-heh THAT'S JUST MY BOYFRIEND. HE DOESN'T MEAN IT. HE'S JUST A BIG JOKER.

THAT'S RIGHT HONEY, AND I GOTA GREAT JOKE TO TELL YA, SO COME BACK HERE, OK, SUGAR!?!

THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A BOYFRIEND. IN FACT, THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A HUMAN.

OH YEAH? WELL LET'S JUST TAKE A LOOK.

CRASH

UH, WELL, YOU SEE HE'S GOT ONE OF THOSE UH- MR. MICROPHONE THINGS.

OH. I'M SORRY. TERRIBLY I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE GIRL.

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

HMMMm. NOW WHAT WOULD BILLY JACK DO IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?

WELL, I HOPE THIS TEACHES YOU TO MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

I KNOW I HAD IT HERE SOMEWHERE...

WHO ARE YOU? WHERE'S STAN? WHAT DID YOU DO WITH HIM? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

AH, THERE IT IS!

YOU FORGOT, "WHY DIDN'T THOSE KILL YOU?" THAT ONE REALLY CRACKS ME UP!

EXCUSE ME, OFFICER, BUT BEFORE YOU WASTE ANY MORE BULLETS-

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

CRASH

YOU GOT ANY BEER?

WONDERFUL, MY VERY FAVORITE BRAND O' BREW.

CRASH

THIS HAS JUST GOT TO STOP!

THANKS FOR THE USE OF YOUR GUN, BOYS!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM

YOU- YOU KILLED HIM!! MY GOD, YOU KILLED HIM!

HEY, DON'T BLAME ME, YOU'RE THE ONE WITH ALL THE LAMPS.

HEY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON OUTSIDE?

WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME THEY GOT HERE, WHAT WITH ALL THE SHOOTING AND SUCH!

HEY, QUIT SHOVING

GET OFFA MY FOOT

WATCH WHERE YOU STICK THAT GUN

HEY, WHAT FLOOR DO WE WANT?

OH, THANK GOO'NESS YOU'VE ARRIVED! ALL THE RUCKUS IS ON THE 5th FLOOR.

MUCH OBLIGED

THANK YOU MA'AM

APPRECIATE IT

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS

HOLD ON, SARGE!

AM I IMAGINING THINGS, OR DID THAT OLD LADY HAVE A BEER?

OH, BOY'S?

CATCH.

LISTEN, SOMEONE HAS TO STAY WITH THE PRISONER, SO WHY NOT YOU?

'CAUSE YOU ALWAYS GET TO DO THE SHOOTING I NEVER GET TO DO ANYTHING EXCITING.

BOOM

I'LL STAY DOWN HERE WITH THE PRISONER!

MEANWHILE...

YOU CAN'T GO OUT THERE! HE'LL KILL YOU! DIDN'T YOU HEAR THAT EXPLOSION?

YEAH, I HEARD IT. THAT'S WHY I'M GOING OUT THERE. I'M A COP. DANGER IS MY DUTY.

BESIDES, MAYBE I'LL GET SOME TAIL FROM YOU LATER FOR BEING SO BRAVE. heh heh

LOOK! THAT COP DIDN'T COME WITH US! IT MUST BE THAT BIG-HEADED THING IN DISGUISE AGAIN!

LET'S GET HIM!

NO, WAIT!

BLAM BLAM BOOM CRACK BOOM BANG POW

HEY, SARGE? DIDN'T YOU GET BLOWN UP BY THE BAZOOKA?

OOH YEAH.

YOU GUYS ARE JUST TOO CLEVER FOR ME.

SLAP SLAP SLAP SLAP

WOOHOO! WOO HOO! WOO HOO!

AMES! THIS IS PASSEL! YOU WERE RIGHT! IT'S THE BIG-HEADED GUY. I THINK HE'S HEADED FOR THE ROOF!

DID YOU CALL DOWNTOWN? OVER.

I SURE DID, AND I GOT FAST RESULTS. WHEN THEY GOT THE ADDRESS, LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY WAS ALERTED. HIS MOTHER LIVES IN THIS BUILDING.

HOLD ON, PASSEL. THE LIEUTENANT WANTS TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.

GOOD WORK, OFFICER. KEEP TABS ON HIM, WE'RE COMING UP.

ANY CIVILIANS HURT?

NO SIR, ONLY COPS. BUT I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING. THIS GUY ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY TO CATCH.

DON'T WORRY, OFFICER.

I CAME PREPARED.

GIVE UP, SUCKERS! YOU CAN'T HOPE TO NAB ME.

WHEN I'M HERE..

..I'M THERE!

WHEN I'M UPSTAIRS--

WHEN I'M IN THE FRONT--

KAPOW

--I'M DOWNSTAIRS!

--I'M IN THE BACK!

WHEN I'M ALIVE..

YOU'RE DEAD!

THAT'S IT, MISTER.

YOU'RE FINISHED.

I'M CHECKING YOU OUT.

OH YEAH, PAL? YOU AND WHAT..

--ARMY.
MEN.
FIRE AT WILL.
HOLD ON, GUYS, HE SAID FIRE AT WILL, NOT ME!
BOOM
BLAM
BLAM
CRACK
YOW!! HEY, SOMEONE JUST HIT ME IN THE EYE!
BLAM
BAM
BAM
BANG
BAM
BANG

OH MAN, HE'S GONNA HIT THE CAR!

SCREECH

WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT! THE KEYS ARE STILL IN TH'S BABY.

I'LL TELL YA, THIS GUY WAS JUST INVITING THEFT.

YOU CAN'T LET THIS LUNATIC MONSTER TAKE ME! IT'S UNCONSTITU-TIONAL!

I WONDER HOW MUCH ONE OF THOSE TRUCKS COSTS.

GEE, IT'S FUN TO BE A COP. SAY BACK THERE, WHAT SAY WE GO CRUISE SOME CHICKS?

KA BOOM

FINAL KICK!

LOOK OUT! NO BRAKES, NO BRAKES! GET OUTTA MY WAY! NO BRAKES!!!

HEY, MAN! YOU'RE DRIVING LIKE A MANIAC!

SAY PAL, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

UHH, JERRY.

LISTEN, UHH JERRY, IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT...

SHUT UP!

UNBELIEVABLE!

HOW DID ONE GUY DO ALL THIS?

MA'AM, I KNOW YOU'VE HAD A ROUGH TIME, BUT WE REALLY NEED TO TALK.

I'VE GOT TO KNOW HOW ALL THIS STARTED.

I'M OKAY, DON'T WORRY.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW. YOU SEE, MY BOYFRIEND, STAN, BROKE INTO THE APARTMENT, ONLY I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS STAN. THAT'S WHEN I CALLED THE COPS.

HE CAME BACK HERE, IN THE DARK. I WAS SCARED AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, I HIT HIM OVER THE HEAD WITH A LAMP.

WHICH IS WHEN THE COPS ARRIVED.

I LEFT STAN BACK THERE AND TRIED TO GET RID OF THE POLICE.

WHILE I'M TALKING TO THEM, WE HEAR NOISES IN MY ROOM. THE POLICE WANTED TO CHECK IT OUT, AND WHEN WE GET BACK HERE, STAN'S GONE. INSTEAD, THAT... *THING* IS HERE, HITTING EVERY-BODY OVER THE HEAD.

WITH LAMPS, RIGHT? JUST LIKE YOU HIT STAN. TELL ME, WHY DID YOUR BOYFRIEND BREAK IN IN THE FIRST PLACE?

WELL, WE'D HAD A FIGHT. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY WE BROKE UP.

AND, WHAT WAS THE FIGHT ABOUT? *DRUGS*, MAYBE?

HARDLY. IT WAS OVER A GIFT.

JUST A— A, HMMM I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND IT NOW.

I *SAID*, I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE GIFT IS, DOES IT?

WHA—? uh, NO, NO, IT WAS JUST A GIFT.

I THINK WE SHOULD TALK TO YOUR BOYFRIEND. COULD YOU GIVE ME HIS ADDRESS?

YES, OF COUSE.

I'LL LEAVE AN OFFICER AT YOUR DOOR TONIGHT.

NO, THAT'S NOT NECESSARY--

-- I HAVE A FRIEND I CAN STAY WITH.

—TWO, THREE, AND FOUR MAKES TWENTY. THANKS FOR SHOPPING AT SMILEY'S.

HAALLP!

THANKS, BUT I DON'T NEED ANY HELP. I KNOW JUST WHAT I WANT AND JUST WHERE IT IS.

SAY, UHH JERRY, WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THE COOLER IS ALWAYS IN THE BACK?

LOOK HONEY, I AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT. TAKE THE FRIGGIN' MONEY.

WHAT LOUSY SERVICE. I'LL NEVER SHOP HERE AGAIN!

OH, MAN! IT'S THE COPS! THEY'RE COMIN' TO GET US!

YOU'RE SUCH A BABY. WHAT WERE YOU ARRESTED FOR ANYWAY, WETTIN' THE BED?

I SAW THEM DO THIS AT DISNEYLAND ONCE.

unhh!

SMASH

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! I'M GONNA DIE! I JUST KNOW IT.

FORGET ABOUT IT, YOU WUSS. WE GOT BIGGER FISH TO FRY.

TAKE A LOOK OVER THERE.

THERE, MY FRIEND, IS CARY McWHIRTER, A DEADBEAT WHO OWES ME A PILE OF MONEY."

HA HA. I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, LIEUTENANT.

I CAN'T BLAME THAT GUY FOR BREAKING INTO HIS GIRL'S APARTMENT. IF I LIVED IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, I'D DO THE SAME THING.

LIEUTENANT, THE BIG-HEADED GUY HAS JUST BEEN SIGHTED AT BERREL AVE. GOING WEST ON WORLEY BOULEVARD.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET MOVING.

LISTEN, HENDERSON. I WANT YOU TO STAY HERE, NO MATTER WHAT COMES OVER THE HORN. THIS IS YOUR POST, GOT THAT?

YESSIR, LIEUTENANT.

THIS IS KELLAWAY. I WANT A DISPATCHER TO ARRANGE A ROADBLOCK ON THE WEST END OF WORLEY BOULEVARD WITH ALL PERSONNEL IN THE VICINITY.

THIS TIME, HE'S NOT GETTING AWAY.

WHERE'S MY SIXTY BUCKS, YOU LI SON OF A BITCH ?!?

KPOW KPOW KPOW

THERE'S THE FREAK NOW. GET READY, LIONEL. OKAY...

NOW, WHEN I SAY THE WORD, I WANT YOU TO SIDE-SWIPE THAT CAR INTO THE POST OFFICE.

OHHHH, HI! WANNA DRAG?

TRASH

BUT, LIEUTENANT, THEY'RE DOING 90. WHAT ABOUT THAT POOR GUY IN THE BACK?

NICE KNOWING YA, UHHJERRY.

BOOM

JUST DO IT!

KRAAAK!

LOOK, I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO, OKAY?

LET'S HEAD BACK AND SEE HOW THAT BULLET PROOF BASTARD LOOKS WITH A STEERING COLUMN THROUGH HIS CHEST.

CHUNK!

I BEEN WORK'N' ON DE RAILROAD, ♪ ♫ AAAAALL DE LIVELONG DAY—

FLOOR IT, LIONEL, FLOOR IT!

A GUY COULD WORK UP A REAL THIRST DOING THIS.

HOLEE! LIONEL! SHAKE THIS PSYCHO BEFORE HE KILLS ME!

LIEUTENANT, LOOK!

KE-SH!

THE ROAD BLOCK!

SCREECH

CRASH!

LIEUTENANT, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M--I'M F-FINE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

JUST LOOK OUT FOR THE BIG-HEADED GUY.

SWOOSH

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.. WHERE DO I GET ALL THIS NEAT STUFF, RIGHT?

EEEEEEEEEY-HAH!

SWOOOOSH!

BOOM BOOM BOOM

THIS IS THE LIFE!

BOOM BOOM BOOM

CRACK CRACK CRACK

ARE YOU SURE THOSE SLUGS CAN'T GO THROUGH THE ENGINE?

YEAH, I'M SURE.

SO, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

WAIT TILL HE GETS TIRED.

AN AMUSING WEAPON, BUT NOT PERCUSSIVE ENOUGH.

NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE.

BOOM BOOM BOOM

HEY, THE SHOOTING STOPPED.

WHERE'S OFFICER LOUGHRAM?

HEY, LIEUTENANT!

AND SOON...

GOOD MORNING, OFFICER.

HUH?!

HEY, YOU'RE THAT UGLY KILLER!

AH-AH-AH, DON'T GET UP. I'VE GOT A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOU.

A LITTLE SONG, A LITTLE DANCE... A LITTLE AMMO DOWN YOUR PANTS.

AND I'LL BET YOU THOUGHT STAKEOUT ASSIGNMENTS WERE BORING, EH, PAL?

KRAK KRAK KRAK

STAN, OLD TIME BOY, IT'S WE LEFT TOWN.

YEAH, THERE'S NO DENYING THAT.

Y'KNOW, I NEVER LIKED THIS CITY MUCH ANYWAY. I'LL BE GLAD TO GET OUT OF HERE.

KRAK KRAK

SORRY STAN, BUT I THINK I'M GOING TO STAY AFTER ALL.

I MEAN, A GIRL HAS A RIGHT TO CHANGE HER MIND, DOESN'T SHE?

WHEW! I THOUGHT I'D NEVER MAKE IT!

YER MAKIN' A BIG MISTAKE, LADY. WE WERE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER.

JUST SHUT UP, YOU! I'M NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO YOUR LIES ANYMORE, DO YOU HEAR ME?!

HELLO, OFFICERS. COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE I MIGHT FIND LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY?

SECOND FLOOR. ROOM 217.

NO, SIR, YOU'RE GOING RIGHT WHERE YOU BELONG.

Lt. KELLAWAY
217

AHHH. THERE IT IS.

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN IF HE HASN'T GOT ANY PRIOR ARRESTS. THIS PSYCHOTIC S.O.B. IS NOT GETTING ANY BAIL IF I CAN STOP IT!

EASY, LIEUTENANT!

IF YOU DON'T CEASE THIS MANHANDLING IMMEDIATELY, I SHALL BE FORCED TO FILE A COMPLAINT!

MASK JUSTICE

AS FOR MY CLIENT'S BAIL, I THINK WE'LL LET THE ARRAIGNING JUDGE DECIDE THAT.

BONNEVILLE, IF I EVER CATCH YOU SO MUCH AS JAYWALKING, I'LL PUT YOU AWAY FOR LIFE!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, LIONEL, I'M NOT GOING TO RUN AFTER THEM. WHAT THE HELL COULD I DO WITH ONE ARM?

YOUR PROBLEM IS YOU GET TOO DAMNED INVOLVED.

I COULD UNDERSTAND WITH THAT BIG-HEADED GUY--

BUT RAPAZ IS JUST ANOTHER SCUMBAG DEALER.

NOT TRUE, PAL, NOT TRUE.

YOU WEREN'T WITH ME WHEN I STARTED MY FILE ON RAPAZ. ONLY REASON HE'S IN ON TRAFFICKING AND POSSESSION IS BECAUSE NOTHING ELSE WOULD STICK.

LIEUTENANT?

HUH?!

UH, HI THERE. REMEMBER ME? I'M KATHY--

SURE, SURE. I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR BOYFRIEND.

OH, IT WAS A SHOCK, BUT WE HAD JUST BROKEN UP. I GUESS I'M OVER IT NOW.

PLEASE, COME INTO MY OFFICE.

I'M HEADING DOWN TO DONUT FEAR. YOU WANT ANYTHING?

HAVE A SEAT.

NO, THANKS.

DONUT FEAR?

YEAH. THAT'S THE SERGEANT'S IDEA OF A JOKE. THE PLACE IS CALLED DONUT FAIR. IT'S NOT VERY GOOD.

BUT YOU DIDN'T COME HERE FOR HUMOR. HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

WELL, I HOPE YOU WON'T BE ANGRY FOR NOT COMING TO YOU EARLIER--

BUT I THINK YOU MAY FIND THE ANSWERS TO A LOT OF QUESTIONS IN THIS BAG.

THAT MUST BE SOME BAG.

LOOKS LIKE YOU BROUGHT ME THE WRONG BAG. THE ONLY THING IN HERE IS ONE BIG QUESTION.

SUCH AS WHAT THE HELL IS THIS THING?

THAT'S YOUR CRIMINAL. THE CAUSE OF ALL YOUR PROBLEMS WITH THAT- THAT GUY YOU CHASED ALL OVER TOWN LAST MONTH.

...WHAT?!

I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT IF YOU WERE TO PUT THAT MASK ON, YOU'D SEE WHAT I MEAN.

WELL, THAT CERTAINLY WAS A WILD CASE. MAYBE I WILL TRY IT ON.

NOOOO! DON'T PUT IT ON!! DON'T EVER PUT IT ON!

WHAT! BUT YOU SAID...

LOOK, THIS WHOLE ORDEAL HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN MORE OF A STRAIN THAN YOU THOUGHT.

AFTER YOU'VE GOTTEN SOME SLEEP, GIVE ME A CALL, AND WE CAN DISCUSS THIS MORE... RATIONALLY.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I HAVEN'T SLEPT IN DAYS. BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO NOW. I'LL CALL YOU TOMORROW.

NO HURRY. HERE, DON'T FORGET THIS.

OH NO! I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE THAT THING AGAIN. IT'S THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY NOW.

DO YOU HEAR ME? I WON'T TAKE IT BACK!

OKAY, OKAY.

AND REMEMBER, WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LET ANYBODY WEAR THAT THING.

YOU GOT IT.

LATE THAT EVENING.

YOU *ARE* GOING HOME TONIGHT, AREN'T YOU?

SURE, SURE. HOLD YOUR HORSES!

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK, WHAT'S THAT?

OH, THAT LADY WHO WAS HERE EARLIER FORCED IT ON ME. SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT. SHE WAS PRETTY UPSET, SO I PLAYED ALONG.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LEAVE IT THERE, ARE YOU?

WHY THE HELL NOT?

WHAT IF THE CAPTAIN SEES IT? YOU TRY EXPLAINING TO HIM WHY EVIDENCE ISN'T PROPERLY FILED.

YOU KNOW HOW HE'S BEEN RIDING US THESE PAST FEW WEEKS. IT MIGHT LOOK BAD.

ALRIGHT, ALREADY, I'LL TAKE IT HOME AND PUT IT UNDER MY PILLOW.

HAPPY?

WHY DID I EVER BECOME A COP?

I HAVEN'T BEEN SO FRUSTRATED SINCE I WAS GOING THROUGH PUBERTY.

IF IT'S NOT SCUMBAG LAWYERS LEGALLY OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE--

IT'S A HARD-NOSED CAPTAIN OUT TO NAIL ME FOR NOT MAKING AN ARREST IN THE "BIG-HEAD" CASE.

I WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE SEEN *HIM* HANDLE THAT SUPER-SICKO.

HOME SWEET HOME.

AND AS FOR YOU--

I'LL BET YOU BELONGED TO THAT POOR GIRL'S BOYFRIEND. PROBABLY SCARED HER TO HAVE YOU AROUND.

DEATH DOES THAT TO FOLKS. SCARES 'EM, I MEAN. ESPECIALLY MURDER.

WELL, ENOUGH CHIT CHAT, FRIEND. TIME FOR DINNER.

TUNA-SALAD ALWAYS TASTES BEST AFTER A COUPLE DAYS IN THE FRIDGE.

WHAT'D SHE SAY AGAIN, "DON'T EVER PUT IT ON"?

SHE WAS OBVIOUSLY DISTRAUGHT.

HOLY TOLEDO. THE LITTLE LADY WAS RIGHT!

WOULD YA LOOKIT THAT! MY ARM'S ALL BETTER! WHY, IT'S A MIRACLE!

YAAAI!!!

OH, HEH HEH. THAT'S ME.

HI THERE.

IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THERE ARE SOME DISTINCT ADVANTAGES TO THIS GUISE.

WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING.

BONK!

HOT DAMN! I DIDN'T FEEL A THING.

BAM BAM BAM BAM

OH, THIS IS TOO MUCH! HEE HEE HEE.

FUN IS FUN. BUT LET'S GIVE THIS A REAL TEST.

GEE. IF THIS DOESN'T WORK. WON'T I FEEL STUPID?

MUCH BETTER. LET 'ER RIP!

THIS IS GREAT! UNBELIEVABLE. BUT GREAT!

THE CAPTAIN WILL FLIP WHEN HE SEES THIS.

WAIT A MINUTE. WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT?

BANG

SCREW THE CAPTAIN. I GOT SOME POLICE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.

STOP LOOKING AT YOUR WATCH. I'M QUITE AWARE THAT HE'S LATE, BUT KEEP IN MIND, HE'S A VERY BUSY MAN.

WE'RE QUITE LUCKY HE WILL SEE US AT ALL.

MMMM - I HAVE TO SEE SOMEONE AT 11 O'CLOCK. HE WILL BE HERE BEFORE THEN?

PROBABLY.

SORRY TO BE SO LATE, DAVID, BUT TODAY WAS CRAZY.

NOT TO WORRY. STEVEN LISTOR, THIS IS EUGENE RAPAZ.

AH, MR. RAPAZ, NICE TO MEET YOU.

AS IT IS TO MEET YOU.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I GOT MR. RAPAZ RELEASED ON REASONABLE BAIL.

I WOULDN'T BE HERE IF I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD MANAGE THAT MUCH ON YOUR OWN.

BUT OF COURSE, THERE ARE OTHER PROBLEMS.

THE POLICE TOOK MR. RAPAZ IN ON THIS TRAFFICKING CHARGE TO GET HIM OFF THE STREETS FOR A WHILE.

IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THEY BELIEVE THIS WILL MAKE THEIR INFORMANTS LESS INTIMIDATED BY MY CLIENT, MORE WILLING TO TALK, EVEN TESTIFY.

FRANKLY, THIS STRATEGY COULD WORK, SO I AM, LET'S SAY "MOTIVATED", TO SEEK AN EARLY RELEASE FOR MY CLIENT.

HOW "MOTIVATED"?

EVEN IF THEY CAN'T COLLECT ENOUGH EVIDENCE FOR FURTHER CHARGES, THE TRAFFICKING CHARGE MIGHT STICK.

MMMM-UNLESS, THAT IS, YOU INTERVENE.

I SEE, I SEE.

WELL, OF COURSE I CAN'T MAKE YOU ANY GUARANTEES, BUT I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

MMMM-THAT IS ALL THAT I ASK.

THANKS AGAIN, STEVEN.

AND HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT, GENTLEMEN.

DINNER'S ON ME.

NOW LET'S ORDER SOME FOOD, EH?

Roberts

PAT-PAT-PAT

ARE YOU SURE THAT'S EVERYTHING, GRANNY?

YES, IT'S ALL THERE. I'VE DONE EVERYTHING YOU'VE ASKED. YOU AREN'T GOING TO SHOOT ME, ARE YOU?

I TOLD YOU THAT IF YOU COOPERATED I WOULDN'T SHOOT YA', AND I AIN'T GONNA SHOOT YA'.

OH, THANK YOU, SIR. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

BOOM

HE IS!

WHERE'S THE CAR, MAN?! WHERE'S THE FRIGGIN' CAR?!

LOOK! DOWN THERE!

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE CAR. IT WON'T START.

WON'T START?! WON'T START?! I DON'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING! WHAT DID YOU DO TO IT, MAN?

I DIDN'T DO NOTHING! JUST SHUT UP, OKAY? MAYBE I CAN FIX IT REAL FAST.

I THINK IT'S YOUR CARBURETOR, PAL.

IT'S A GOOD THING YOU GUYS STEAL AMERICAN.

THESE FOREIGN ENGINES CAN BE SO DAMNED CRAMPED.

AWFULLY DIRTY, THOUGH.

DON'T STARE AT ME, KID. I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S THE CARBURETOR.

HERE! SEE FOR YOURSELF!

WHOOK

WHANNG

LEMME ASK YOU GUYS SOMETHING-

BOOM-CHUK BOOM-CHUK BOOM-CHUK BOOM-CHUK

BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG

AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO WEAR THOSE THINGS ON YOUR LEGS?

C

C

AAAAAHHHH!!

FELLAS?! HEY, FELLAS! WAIT FOR ME!

30 MINUTES LATER...

I-I THINK =GASP= WE LOST HIM.

YEAH =AHUH= MUSTA THROWED HIM OFF =GULP= TRACK WH-WHEN WE DOUBLED BACK.

C'MON, LET'S GO SEE IF WHEELS IS STILL ALIVE.

AND FOR CRIPES' SAKE, TAKE THAT STOCKING OFF YOUR HEAD!

SHHH

SOON.

GREAT! WELL, WE CAN'T GO THIS WAY.

GIFTS

HEY, WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

SSSSSSS

NOW THAT I HAVE YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION, I'D LIKE TO DEMONSTRATE THE ART OF BALLOON SCULPTING.

YOU IDIOT! THERE'S COPS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.

AND SHOOTING DIDN'T WORK BEFORE ANY-WAYS.

NOW WATCH. A FEW QUICK TURNS OF THE WRISTS ...

AND BEHOLD! WE HAVE A GIRAFFE!

A COUPLE OF WELL PLACED TWISTS...

VOILA', A FRENCH POODLE!

SEVERAL MORE TWISTS. AND WE HAVE MY FAVORITE -

A TOMMY GUN!!

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT

HEY, YOU HEAR THAT?!

YEAH, IT CAME FROM OVER THERE.

LET'S MOVE!

HEY, DERRICK! WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?!

SORRY, BEN. I WAS CHECKING ON THE OLD LADY, BUT SHE'S BEYOND OUR HELP.

WE'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL GETTING HIM ABOARD. HE'S GOT A NECK INJURY.

ALL SET, DRIVER! LET'S ROLL!

HE JUST, JUST CAME OUT OF THE CAR.

EASY, PAL, EASY. TRY NOT TO MOVE YOUR HEAD, OKAY?

GIVE HIM THIS. IT'LL PUT HIM TO SLEEP IN SECONDS. I'M GOING TO TAPE HIS HEAD DOWN, MINIMIZE ANY MOVEMENT.

YOU GOT IT, PAL!

HUH?! UUUHHH...

HI THERE. REMEMBER MEEE?!

NO, MA'AM, WE CAN'T GIVE OUT HOME NUMBERS. ANYWAY, I'M SURE HE'S ON HIS WAY RIGHT NOW.

HE'S USUALLY IN BY 9:15. YES, I'LL HAVE HIM CALL YOU.

AH, WHAT A GORGEOUS DAY.

WHAT?! IT'S SO HUMID OUT THERE, I HAD TO SWIM TO WORK.

WELL, IT'S GOOD TO BE ALIVE ANYWAY, ISN'T IT?!

LAST NIGHT YOU SEEMED TO THINK OTHERWISE.

AH WELL, THAT WAS LAST NIGHT. IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF SOME TENSION RELIEVING EXERCISES, AND I'M FIT AS A FIDDLE.

TENSION RELIEVING, HUH? WELL, THAT EXPLAINS *THIS* CALL.

YOU HEAR ABOUT THE HOLD-UP MURDERS ON THE WEST SIDE LAST NIGHT?

NO, BUT HOLD ON A SECOND. I HAVE TO MAKE A CALL FIRST.

YES, I KNOW I MUST HAVE SOUNDED CRAZY, BUT I WAS DESPERATE TO GET RID OF THAT THING. IT REALLY SCARED ME.

YOU... YOU DIDN'T TRY IT ON, DID YOU?

TRY WHAT ON? THE MASK?

NO, YOU MADE IT CLEAR THAT I SHOULDN'T DO THAT, SO I DIDN'T. BESIDES, I DON'T THINK IT'S MY SIZE.

LIEUTENANT, ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?

NO, MA'AM, NOT AT ALL. JUST TRYING TO ADD SOME LEVITY TO THE MATTER. YOU KNOW, EASE SOME OF THE FEARS YOU MIGHT HAVE.

BUT DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT MASK ANYMORE. I'VE GOT IT NOW, AND I PROMISE I'LL NEVER LET IT OUT OF MY SIGHT, OKAY?

YES, I'LL BE SURE TO CALL YOU IF I HAVE ANY-MORE QUESTIONS. YOU HAVE A GOOD DAY NOW.

HEH HEH HEH

NOW, LIONEL. I BELIEVE YOU HAD A STORY YOU WANTED TO TELL ME.

HMMMMM.

KNOCK KNOCK

...SO ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL, THE PERP GETS A BROKEN NECK, PROBABLY WHEN THE AMBULANCE HIT A BUMP.

WHILE THE ATTENDANT IS ALL DOPED UP. STILL HASN'T COME TO.

GOOD MORNING, CAPTAIN. HOW CAN WE HELP YOU.

YOU TWO CAN GET YOUR LAZY ASSES IN-TO MY OFFICE.

SOMEONE FROM THE D.A.'s OFFICE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU.

INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE?! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, INSUFFI-CIENT EVIDENCE!?

THE HEROIN SEIZED IN THE BUST CANNOT BE LOCATED IN THE EVIDENCE LOCKER.

WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO RELEASE MR. RAPAZ.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF SHOW YOU'RE RUNNING, KELLAWAY, BUT THERE'S GONNA BE A FULL INVESTIGA-TION!

YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT THERE IS!

STARTING RIGHT HERE!!

I WANT YOUR FULL NAME, BUSTER! I WANT TO TALK TO THE D.A. ABOUT YOU!

THE NAME IS STEVEN LISTOR.

I'M THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT, AND I ASSURE YOU, HE IS FULLY AWARE OF THE FACTS IN THE CASE OF MR. RAPAZ.

HOWEVER, YOU ARE WELCOME TO CALL IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO HIM.

ANYTIME AFTER TWO O'CLOCK. WE'LL BE RATHER BUSY UNTIL THEN.

YOU'RE DOING JUST GREAT, LIEUTENANT, JUST GREAT.

YOU LOSE OUR ONLY SUSPECT IN THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT CRIMES OF THE DECADE, AND NOW YOU LET EUGENE RAPAZ SLIP THROUGH YOUR FINGERS.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO FOR AN ENCORE? HEH HEH.

JUST WAIT AND SEE, LARD BUTT. JUST WAIT AND SEE.

THE CITY IS A DARK AND DANGEROUS PLACE AT 4 A.M., TAILOR-MADE FOR DEALERS, PIMPS, AND MUGGERS--THE SKELL OF SOCIETY.

THE POLICE DO THEIR BEST, BUT THEY CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE. IN FACT, THEY'D RATHER AVOID SOME NEIGHBORHOODS ALTOGETHER.

IN THESE GHETTOS, ONLY ONE MAN STANDS BETWEEN THE INNOCENT--AND THE GUILTY.

HEAVEN HELP THE INNOCENT.

AH, I KNEW I'D GET IT WITH A LITTLE PRACTICE.

NOW I GOTTA WORK ON MY "ROUND THE WORLD."

SAAAAY, WHAT GIVES?

OH, MY, I BETTER HAD TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, BETTER HADN'T I?

NO, NO. PLEASE DON'T TAKE MY TRUCK. SHE'S ALL I HAVE TO MAKE MY LIVING.

DON'T WORRY, POPS. WE'RE JUST GONNA TAKE IT FOR A JOY RIDE.

THEN WE'LL DUMP IT IN THE RIVER, AND YOU'LL COLLECT A BUNDLE ON THE INSURANCE.

BUT I GOT NO INSURANCE. THEY NO COVER ME 'CAUSE I GOTTA PICK UP MY FRUIT ON THE WATERFRONT.

YEAH, THIS *IS* A ROUGH NEIGHBOR-HOOD, AND AN EVEN ROUGHER LIFE.

CLIMB ABOARD, KIDDIES.

NOT SO FAST!

YOU NO GO ANYWHERE WITH THAT TRUCK.

AT LEAST NOT UNTIL YOU HAVE A DECENT HAIRCUT.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, THE BARBER OF SEVILLE?

JUST MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, GOOMBAH, AND YOU WON'T GET HURT.

AHH, BUT HAIR *IS* MY BUSINESS.

FOR INSTANCE, IF YOU HAVE LONG HAIR, SOMEONE CAN GRAB A HANDFUL OF IT.

LIKE SO.

HEY!

HAAA

WHOOO

THEN, YOU ARE AT THEIR MERCY.

SO, YOU SEE, THE PROPER HAIRCUT IS VERY IMPOR-TANT.

CLIP

KEESH!

OH, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, PAISAN. MY WIFE AND CHILDREN THANK YOU.

THAT TRUCK IS MY LIVING. WHEN YOU SAVE THAT TRUCK, YOU SAVE MY WHOLE WORLD.

YOUR WORLD? HOLD ON A MINUTE, PAL.

IF WE'RE GONNA BE FRIENDS, WE HAVE TO GET ONE THING STRAIGHT.

THIS IS SINATRA'S WORLD.

YOU AND ME?

WE JUST LIVE 'N IT.

DOOBY DOOBY DOO, WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER... ♫♪

♫DA DA DA DA DEEWA...♫

MEANWHILE, IN AN EVEN WORSE PART OF TOWN...

MAN, WHERE IS THAT GUY? I CAN'T HOLD OUT ALL NIGHT!

CLUNK

HEY-HEY, BENNY? THAT YOU, MAN?

MMMM, NO, I'M AFRAID NOT, LANK.

BUT AS YOU KNOW, I'VE GOT THE BEST STUFF IN TOWN.

RAPAZ!

NOOOOOO!

MMMMM. YES.

I'LL KILL THAT FRIGGIN' BENNY! HE MUSTA TOLD RAPAZ I SQUEALED ON HIM.

WHEN I FIND THAT PIG, IT'S THE END FOR HIM.

WHUNK!

NO, MAN! PLEASE, YOU GOTTA LEMME GO. THAT MONSTER'LL KILL ME IF HE GETS HIS HANDS ON ME!

MMMMM, TRY SHOWING A BIT MORE GRATI-TUDE, LANK.

BENNY TELLS ME YOU USUALLY TAKE ABOUT A NICKEL OF THE CHEAPEST CUT STUFF HE HAS.

AND HERE I'VE GOT A DIME OF PURE HORSE, ALL COOKED, DRAWN, AND READY TO SHOOT.

MMMMM, ABSOLUTELY FREE!

MMMMM, PLEASE, WALTER, HOLD HIM STEADY.

WE DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM.

MORNING, LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY.

UH, YEAH, SURE.

HEY, KELLAWAY, OVER HERE.

WHAT IS IT, SILBER?

I THINK I GOT SOMETHING HERE YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN.

AND THEN HE WALKS AWAY SINGING---

...JUST LIKE SINATRA.

LOOKS LIKE YOUR BIG-HEADED LOONY STRUCK AGAIN, AND THIS TIME HE'S A DO-GOODER.

ANYONE-- UH--ANYBODY... KILLED?

WELL, NO, BUT WE GOT A GUY IN INTENSIVE CA--

IF IT *IS* "BIG-HEAD," THEN IT'S YOUR PROBLEM!

I'VE GOT MY OWN NIGHTMARES TO DEAL WITH, SO ***DON'T BUG ME!***

SLAM!

DAMN THAT SILBER! DOESN'T HE REALIZE I'VE GOT PLENTY OF CASES OF MY OWN TO DEAL WITH?!

GOOD MORNING TO YOU, TOO.

I'M SERIOUS, LIONEL. WHY THE HELL DOES HE BOTHER ME WITH HIS PROBLEMS?

IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT VIGILANTE CASE, I HEAR IT MIGHT BE "BIG-HEAD."

AND, AFTER ALL, WE DO HAVE LOTS OF EXPERIENCE WITH THAT FREAK. MAYBE HE JUST WANTED YOUR OPINION.

I'LL TELL YOU MY OPINION. MY OPINION IS, NO WAY WOULD THAT UGLY MUTANT EVER BECOME A VIGILANTE.

HE'S A COLD-BLOODED KILLER, OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

EASY, LIEUTENANT, I'M A GOOD GUY.

SORRY, I'M JUST CRANKY. DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP.

I CAN SEE THAT. YOU REALLY LOOK LIKE HELL.

OH, YEAH?

WELL, YER UGLY!

THAT REMINDS ME. THE M.E. WANTS TO SEE YOU.

YEP, THAT'S LANK, ALL RIGHT!

AND YOU'RE SURE IT'S AN O.D.?

WELL, OF COURSE WE WON'T BE ***SURE*** UNTIL WE GET THE BLOOD AND TISSUE ANALYSES BACK.

BUT I'VE SEEN LOTS OF THESE IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, AS LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY KNOWS.

IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S AN O.D.

THANKS FOR CALLING US, HEDELMAN. I'LL REMEMBER YOU AT CHRISTMAS.

DAMN!

WHAT THE HELL WAS HE TALKING ABOUT? HOW DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY O.D.'S HE'S SEEN LATELY?

YOU'D KNOW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT IF YOU'D READ THROUGH THE WHOLE RAPAZ FILE, LIKE I ASKED YOU TO.

BUT, LIEUTENANT, I WAS ASSIGNED TO YOUR HOMICIDE CASES, NOT NARCOTICS.

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THOSE O.D.'S ***ARE*** HOMICIDES!

AND RAPAZ IS RESPONSIBLE!

HIT MEN USUALLY GO AFTER SQUEALERS, BUT THEY ALL HAVE SPECIALTIES, RIGHT?

UHH...

WARREN ONLY HIT WITNESS PROTECTION CANDIDATES, DR. MOTT WENT AFTER PLEA BARGAINERS--

--AND RAPAZ, BEING A DRUG DEALER, HITS ONLY JUNKIES, THE MOST PROLIFIC SQUEALERS OF ALL.

AND SINCE LANK GAVE US THE INFO WE NEEDED TO BUST RAPAZ...

NOW YOU'RE GETTING IT. RAPAZ GIVES THE USER FAR TOO MUCH HEROIN, SO IT LOOKS LIKE AN ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSE.

AND EVEN IF ANYONE SUSPECTS, THESE POOR GUYS ARE JUST JUNKIES, SO NOBODY REALLY CARES.

ALMOST LIKE A STRING OF PERFECT MURDERS.

"ALMOST" IS RIGHT! BUT KILLING LANK WAS A MISTAKE. I'M GONNA GO PICK UP THAT BASTARD FOR SOME SERIOUS "QUESTIONING," AND THEN WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN'T MAKE SOME CHARGES STICK.

YOU ALREADY HAD YOUR CHANCE FOR THAT, LIEUTENANT.

I SUGGEST YOU STEER CLEAR OF MR. RAPAZ.

HIS ATTORNEY IS JUST ITCHING TO SLAP YOU WITH A HARASSMENT COMPLAINT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU HAVE EVIDENCE, ENOUGH TO CONVINCE A JUDGE TO ISSUE A WARRANT...

IS THAT WHAT YOU CAME DOWN HERE FOR, LISTOR, TO GIVE US SOME ADVICE?

OR IS THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE WHERE YOU PICK UP YOUR BEST DATES?

YOUR CAPTAIN SAID YOU'D BE DOWN HERE. THERE'S STILL A LITTLE MATTER OF SOME MISSING HEROIN.

SINCE YOU TWO SEIZED THAT HEROIN IN YOUR ARREST OF RAPAZ, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU BOTH.

JUST WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL, YOU SLIMY BASTARD?!

NOW, NOW, LIEUTENANT, LET'S TRY TO KEEP THIS FRIENDLY.

SEE YOU TOMORROW AT NOONISH.

TA-TA.

WHAT A DAY! I THOUGHT IT'D NEVER END!

RAPAZ WIPES OUT ANOTHER ADDICT, AND *I'M* CATCHING ALL THE CRAP!

WELL, TOMORROW I'LL HAVE TO FACE THE FIRING SQUAD, BUT TONIGHT--

--I'M CALLING THE SHOTS!

HELLO, CLANCY'S PIZZERIA?

I'LL TAKE ONE LARGE PIE, EXTRA CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE.

HOLD THE SHAMROCKS.

AHHHH, SWEET! I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT LUNG CANDY.

EH?

NOW WE'RE COOKIN'!

RRRIIING

UHH, MAYBE I'VE GOT THE WRONG NUMBER.

IS THIS LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY'S RESIDENCE?

YEAH, YEAH, THIS IS KELLAWAY. JUST CLOWNING AROUND, THAT'S ALL. HEH-HEH.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

WELL, I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY CALLING YOU AT HOME.

BUT WHEN I COULDN'T REACH YOU AT THE STATION, I TALKED TO YOUR MOTHER. SHE LIVES DOWNSTAIRS--

AHH, SO THIS IS KATHY. NO PROBLEM. IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH?

WELL, I'VE BEEN READING THE PAPERS, YOU KNOW, ABOUT THIS MASKED VIGILANTE, AND I HAVE TO SAY I'M KIND OF WORRIED.

OH, I SEE, YOU THINK "BIG-HEAD'S" BACK IN TOWN. THE INVESTIGATING OFFICER SEEMS TO THINK SO, TOO.

BUT I FIGURE THIS NEW GUY'S A COPYCAT OF SOME KIND. YOU GOTTA REMEMBER THAT "BIG-HEAD" WAS A FIRST-CLASS SCUMBAG.

I MEAN, HE WAS A KILLER, AND WHILE I'M NOT CRAZY ABOUT VIGILANTES, THEY HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS AT HEART.

SO TO SPEAK.

YES, I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A POINT THERE, STILL...

STILL? STILL WHAT?

NOTHING. EVERYTHING YOU SAY MAKES SENSE.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME, LIEUTENANT. YOU'VE REALLY SET MY MIND AT EASE.

HE OBVIOUSLY STILL THINKS I'M CRAZY, AND THAT THE MASK I GAVE HIM IS HARMLESS.

IF HE TRIED ON THE MASK, HE'D KNOW WHO "BIG-HEAD" REALLY WAS.

BESIDES, HE'S NO KILLER.

GEEZ, THE "CUPBOARD" IS BARE. MAYBE I'LL EAT OUT TONIGHT.

"HELL, WHY NOT MAKE IT A NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN?"

GUESS I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR JUNK.

LAST YEAR, I WOULDN'T HAVE COME WITHIN TEN BLOCKS OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.

NOW, I'M TOO STRUNG OUT TO BE AFRAID. TOO STRUNG OUT, AND TOO STUPID.

HEY, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? HE SAID HE WAS ONLY BRINGING A DIME, AND NOW HE'S TALKING TO SOMEBODY ELSE.

MMMM, I TOLD YOU, I DON'T HAVE WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, SO PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE!

IF YOU AIN'T DEALING, WHAT IN HELL YOU DOIN' IN ***THIS*** NEIGHB', MY MAN?

I'M WAITING FOR A FRIEND.

OHH, I WOULDN'T EXACTLY CALL US FRIENDS, BUT THANK YOU FOR WAITING FOR ME.

MMMMM, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

LET'S JUST SAY I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'RE WAITING FOR A FRIEND.

IN FACT, I DON'T BELIEVE YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS.

CLEVER, VERY CLEVER. ONE CUSTOMER AT A TIME, RIGHT?

WITH ONLY ONE DIME ON YOU, WE CAN'T PROVE YOU'RE DEALING AT ALL.

MMMM, I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, OR WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE, BUT YOU'LL REGRET THIS LITTLE FIASCO ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

MAYBE, BUT NOT AS FAST YOU'RE GONNA RE-GRET IT.

OR DO YOU THINK THIS HEATER'S MADE OF LICORICE?

EEP!

WHOOONK

MMMMM, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! THAT SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM!

HOO BOY! WHATTA HEADACHE!

MMMMM, KILL HIM, YOU IDIOT! *KILL HIM NOW!*

GOLLY, THIS IS LIKE BEING DRUNK *AND* HUNG OVER ALL AT ONCE.

WHAK!

KRACK!

LEMME GUESS, YOU PUMP IRON, RIGHT?

BLAM! BLAM!

WHAT A COINCIDENCE... I PUMP LEAD!

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A WORKOUT!

WANNA TRY A SET, PUSHER?

M-M-M-M, W-WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?

OH. REAL NICE. INSULT ME, WHY DON'T YOU?

MOST FOLKS'D BE BEGGING FOR MERCY AT THIS POINT. BUT I GUESS YOU JUST WANNA BE DIFFERENT.

WELL, SHUT MY MOUTH...

WHAM!

WHOA, NELLY!

WHAM!

HEY, PAL, YOU GOT AN EXTRA BUTT?

BOOM!

LOOK WHAT YOU DID TO MY NEW SUIT!

THIS STUFF'LL NEVER WASH OUT.

OOOHH...

YOU ARE IN TROUBLE NOW, BUSTER!

SNAP

JUST GIMME A SECOND TO CATCH MY BREATH, AND THEN YOU'LL REALLY BE IN TROUBLE.

HMMMM.

SIZZZT SIZZZT

ZZZZAAXX!

I KNOW, I KNOW...YOU SAID A BUD LIGHT!

GEEZ. I CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER WHAT I CAME DOWN HERE FOR.

AHAH! THAT'S IT!

SNAP!

Z'PPER YOUR DO ♫ DAA, Z'P IT TODAY, SENOR RAPAZ IS GETT'N' AWAY! ♫

M-M-M-M, NO, PLEASE DON'T SHOOT ME. I'LL DO ANY-THING YOU SAY.

I HAVE LOTS OF MONEY. YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL, ONLY DON'T SHOOT ME!

SAVE YOUR BREATH.

CLICK

AND YOU THOUGHT I WAS GONNA SHOOT YOU. THAT'S RICH!

HEH, HEH, YES, HOW SILLY. AFTER ALL, YOU'RE A REASONABLE... MAN.

LISTEN. I'D LOVE TO STAY AND CHAT. BUT I GOTTA GET MOVING. OK?

UH... YES, BY ALL MEANS! DON'T LET ME KEEP YOU.

AND TRY TO RELAX, PAL. YOU'RE SWEATIN' LIKE A HORSE.

M-M, ALL RIGHT. I'LL TRY.

EH?

TICK TICK TICK

KA-BOOM!

C'MON, YOU CANTANKEROUS BASTARD. IT'S AFTER 7:00 A.M.

RRIINNGG!

...KELLAWAY HERE ...

MORNING, LIEUTENANT. SORRY TO WAKE YOU UP, BUT RAPAZ HAS BEEN KILLED.

WELL, IF YOU'RE CALLING TO TELL ME I'M A SUSPECT, FINE.

BUT IF YOU'RE CALLING TO SAY WE'RE TAKING THE CASE, YOU'RE CRAZY! I'M GLAD HE'S DEAD!

SORRY, SIR, BUT WE HAVE TO TAKE IT. IT'S DEFINITELY "BIG-HEAD."

CAN'T BE A COPY-CAT, 'CAUSE RAPAZ'S BODYGUARD BEAT THE HELL OUT OF HIM, EVEN BLEW HIS BRAINS OUT, AND "BIG-HEAD" KEPT COMING.

IT'S HIM, ALL RIGHT.

WAIT, JUST WAIT A MINUTE. HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ALL THIS?

OH, DIDN'T I TELL YOU?

WE HAVE A WITNESS.

THE PAST FEW WEEKS HAVE NOT BEEN KIND TO POLICE LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY. UNDER HIS DIRECTION, LAST MONTH'S MANHUNT FOR THE SO-CALLED "BIG-HEAD KILLER" ENDED IN DISASTER.

ELEVEN POLICE OFFICERS LOST, AND THE KILLER GOT CLEAN AWAY. AND NOW, NEW ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE LIEUTENANT THREATEN TO END HIS POLICE CAREER.

LIEUTENANT, HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR THE LOSS OF THE HEROIN IN--

NO COMMENT.

DO YOU THINK THERE MIGHT BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE RAPAZ MURDER--

NO COMMENT.

IT'S BEEN SAID THAT YOU THREATENED MR. RAPAZ'S LIFE ONLY DAYS BEFORE--

NO COMMENT.

NO COMMENT.

DO YOU FEEL YOU'VE BEEN VICTIMIZED BECAUSE OF YOUR FAILURE IN THE "BIG-HEAD" CASE?

NO COMMENT.

LIEUTENANT, JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS YOUR FIRST NAME?

@#%$*)+<%*¢÷@)!!!

COULDN'TA SAID IT BETTER MYSELF.

I USUALLY KNOCK, TULLY, BUT I'M PRETTY PISSED OFF!

UHH--

NOW, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!

I WANT YOU TO KNOW, THIS IS NOT A FORMAL INVESTIGATION. NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN FILED AGAINST YOU.

AND I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU AREN'T TALKING TO THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF EVIDENCE ON THE DATE THE HEROIN WAS LOST!

OH, WE ARE. BUT WE'VE KEPT IT QUIET.

MY ASSISTANT, MR. LISTOR, AND I HAVE AGREED THAT WE SHOULDN'T NEEDLESSLY TARNISH THE MAN'S REPUTATION.

WHAT ?!

WHAT ABOUT *MY REPUTATION?* THAT MOB OUT THERE KNOWS MORE THAN I DO ABOUT ALL THIS.

YES, THAT IS STRANGE. I GAVE STRICT ORDERS TO KEEP THIS WHOLE MATTER HUSH-HUSH.

I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW IT WAS LEAKED.

GEE, I WONDER!

BACK AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

SO ALL IN ALL, YOU HAVE TO AGREE, IT WASN'T SO BAD. HELL, AFTER LISTOR, THE D.A. LOOKS LIKE OUR BEST FRIEND.

DON'T LET THAT SMOOTH TALKER FOOL YA. WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT, HE'LL ASK FOR OUR SUSPENSION.

HEY, KELLAWAY! IN MY OFFICE, PRONTO!

PRONTO, EH? BEEN PRACTICING YOUR SPANISH, CAPTAIN?

NICE, REAL NICE. THAT'S THE THANKS I GET FOR TRYING TO SAVE YER ASS?

HOW'S THAT?

YOU HEARD THAT THE WITNESS TO "BIG-HEAD'S" KILLING OF RAPAZ IS TOO SCARED TO COME IN TO US, RIGHT?

RIGHT, SO WHAT?

SO HE JUST CALLED AGAIN. SAYS HE'LL MEET WITH ONE COP, ***ALONE***, AT MIDNIGHT, 8TH PIER ON FULTON.

SAYS HE'LL EVEN LET US TAPE A STATEMENT.

YOU'RE IN A LOT OF HOT WATER, SO I FIGURED, MAYBE, YOU MIGHT WANT TO BE THE ONE WHO MEETS THE GUY.

THIS COULD BE THE LEAD WE'RE LOOKING FOR, AND I THINK YOU CAN MAKE THIS INFORMATION WORK FOR YOU.

YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT. THANKS, CAPTAIN. THANKS A LOT.

SO, YOU DON'T THINK THE COP NAILED RAPAZ?

NO. NO, IT'S NOT HIS STYLE. HE'S A BY-THE-BOOK COP.

SO, WE ARE FORCED TO ADMIT, HOWEVER RELUCTANTLY, THAT IT LOOKS LIKE CINCINI IS RESPONSIBLE.

WELL, WE BOTH KNOW HOW MUCH HE ENVIED YOU FOR HAVING RAPAZ ON YOUR PAY-ROLL.

I AM ALSO HARD PRESSED TO EXPLAIN THE APPARENT DIS-APPEARANCE OF WALTER.

ONLY CINCINI WOULD HAVE ENOUGH CASH TO BRIBE WALTER AWAY FROM ME.

LOUIE, CHRIS? COME HERE.

UHHH, YEAH, BOSS. WHATTAYA WANT?

TAKE JOEY, DAVID, AND FRANKY OVER TO CINCINI'S RESTAURANT AND BLAST THE HELL OUT OF EVERY CINCINI WITHIN TEN MILES OF THE PLACE.

IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT, SO THEY'LL BE CLOSING UP THE PLACE IN JUST A FEW MINUTES.

UHHH, SO YOU WANT WE SHOULD GO OVER DERE *RIGHT NOW?*

*NO, YOU @¢%*ING MORONS! I WANT YOU TO GO TOMORROW DURING THE LUNCH HOUR RUSH!*

DAT DON'T SEEM TOO SMART, GOIN' DURIN' LUNCH HOUR.

HEY, HE DIDN'T GET TO BE THE BOSS BY BEIN' STUPID, SO LET'S JUST DO LIKE HE SAYS.

NOW GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!

MIDNIGHT HAS STRUCK, BUT HENRY JU HAS YET TO SEE ANOTHER SOUL ON THE 8TH PIER.

I MUST BE CRAZY, THINKING I COULD STRIKE A DEAL WITH THESE COPS.

THEY'RE PROBABLY SURROUNDING ME WITH A S.W.A.T. TEAM, A HUNDRED K-9'S, AND A RIOT SQUAD.

THAT IS, IF ANYONE SHOWS UP AT ALL.

HOW DO YOU DOZ?

YAAAAAAAAAA!

AWW, NOW HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KEEP UP WITH YOU WITH THESE DAMN FLIPPERS ON?

YAAAAAA

I CAN SEE YOU'RE IN A HURRY, PAL, SO I WON'T KEEP YOU LONG.

ACKK-K-K--

YOU 'N' ME, WE'RE GONNA BE FRIENDS, RIGHT?

AND FRIENDS, WELL, THEY JUST DON'T SQUEAL ON THEIR BUDDIES.

DO THEY?

AS YOUR FRIEND, I'M GONNA RECOMMEND YOU GO HOME AND GET SOME REST RIGHT AWAY.

AND DON'T TALK TO ANY STRANGE POLICE-MEN ON YOUR WAY. IT COULD BE BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH.

AH-AH-AH. WAIT JUST ONE SECOND, PAL.

SOMETHING IN YOUR MANNER TELLS ME YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE I'M YOUR BOSOM BUDDY.

SO TO PROVE IT, I'M GONNA GIVE YOU A LITTLE GIFT. UH...UH... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

H-H-HENRY.

THERE YOU ARE, HENRY!

USE IT IN GOOD HEALTH!

HEH-HEH-HEH. SO MUCH FOR OUR WITNESS.

NOW, LET'S CLEAN THIS CITY UP.

CLEANING UP THIS CRIME-RIDDEN BURG REQUIRES LIMITLESS ENERGY, AND IT'S A BUSY, BUSY NIGHT FOR THE MASKED VIGILANTE.

HA HA

HA HA

IT IS A NIGHT OF VENGEANCE, A NIGHT OF MAYHEM, A NIGHT OF TERROR.

HA HA

A NIGHT OF GOOD, CLEAN, FUN.

IT'S ALSO A NIGHT THAT TAKES ITS TOLL ON LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY.

MAN-OH-MAN, I SHOULD CUT DOWN ON THIS CRAP.

DAMMIT, LIEUTENANT! YOU GOTTA GET BACK HOME!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?

I TRIED TO REACH YOU AT HOME, TELL YOU TO CALL IN SICK, BUT I MISSED YOU.

IF THE CAPTAIN THINKS YOU'RE SICK, HE MIGHT LET THE WHOLE THING SLIDE, BUT IF HE SEES YOU COMING IN ***THIS LATE***, HE'LL BLOW A GASKET.

LOOK, LIONEL, THE FACT IS, I'M FEELING PRETTY BEAT, SO LET'S JUST GO UP AND HAVE A WORD WITH THE OLD BOY.

THE "OLD BOY" IS GOING TO SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE OF COMING UP TO SEE HIM!

OH, UH, HI, CAPTAIN.

I GOT A CALL THIS MORNING FROM THAT WITNESS YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET LAST NIGHT.

HE'S SCARED HALF TO DEATH, SAYS HE WON'T TALK TO ANY-BODY, SAYS HE'S LEAVING TOWN!

WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HIM, KELLAWAY HOW COULD YOU?! HAVE FOULED THIS UP AGAIN?!

CAPTAIN, THE MOOK NEVER SHOWED UP LAST NIGHT. I WAS THERE FOR HOURS, AND HE NEVER SHOWED UP.

MY GUESS IS HE JUST GOT COLD FEET.

IS THAT *YOUR GUESS*, KELLAWAY? WELL, THAT ISN'T *MY GUESS*! WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR *MY GUESS*?

MY GUESS IS THAT SOMEBODY DOESN'T WANT OUR BOY TO TALK TO US.

MY GUESS IS THAT THE SAME SOMEBODY SCARED THE PISS OUT OF HIM WITH THREATS SO THAT HE WOULDN'T TALK.

AND MY FINAL GUESS IS THAT THIS SOMEBODY HAS GOT TO BE "BIG-HEAD" HIMSELF.

SOUNDS GOOD, BUT AS YOU SAY, ALL GUESSES.

THAT'S RIGHT, ONLY GUESSES.

WHICH IS WHY I'M ASSIGNING YOU TO FORM A NEW TASK FORCE TO HUNT DOWN "BIG-HEAD" AND GET A FEW ANSWERS.

ARE YOU OUTTA YOUR SKULL?!

DO YOU REMEMBER HOW MANY MEN GOT KILLED LAST TIME WE ENCOUNTERED THAT GUY?

YOUR CONCERN FOR OUR MEN IS TOUCHING, BUT I DOUBT THAT'S THE *REAL* REASON YOU DON'T WANT TO GO UP AGAINST "BIG-HEAD" AGAIN.

I THINK THE TRUTH IS YOU'RE AFRAID OF HIM! NOT AFRAID FOR YOUR MEN, *JUST PLAIN CHICKEN!*

YOU'RE WRONG THERE, FAT BOY!

THE TRUTH IS, IF "BIG-HEAD" DID KILL RAPAZ, THE ONLY REASON WE SHOULD HUNT HIM DOWN IS SO WE CAN PIN A *%*%€¢ING MEDAL ON HIS CHEST!!*

AND I'LL TELL YA SOMETHING, CAPTAIN, YOU TRY AND GO AFTER "BIG-HEAD," "THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO SCRAPE ENOUGH OF YOU OFF THE STREET TO SOIL A DIAPER.

EASY, MAN. TAKE IT EASY.

GET YOUR FRIGGIN' HANDS OFFA ME, YOU BROWN-NOSIN' FLUNKY!

WHAT?!

THAT'S IT, MISTER! GET YOUR ASS HOME ON THE DOUBLE!

AND I'M DOCKING YOU A DAY'S PAY, AS WELL!

STUFF IT, TUBBY!

"AFRAID." WHAT A LAUGH! THAT FAT PIG WOULD HAVE A HEART ATTACK IF HE KNEW THE TRUTH.

...AT LEAST A DOZEN HOSTAGES.

SAY, WHAT'S THIS?

APPARENTLY THE WHOLE DEBACLE STEMS FROM AN ALLEGED MOB DISPUTE, BUT FURTHER DETAILS ARE SKETCHY.

Cincini's

WHY THE GUNMEN DECIDED TO ATTACK ANGELO CINCINI HERE, DURING THE LUNCH-HOUR RUSH, IS ANYBODY'S GUESS.

MAN, I TOLD YOU WE WUZ MAKIN' A MISTAKE COMING HERE NOW.

SHUDDUP!

FRANKY, HEAD BACK TO THE JOHN AND KEEP AN EYE ON THE WINDOWS.

SURE THING, LOUIE.

SO FAR AS WE KNOW, NONE OF THE HOSTAGES--

WAIT A SECOND, I'M GETTING A REPORT...

"...AND IT LOOKS LIKE...

"...YES, IT *IS*. THE BELEAGUERED LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY HAS JUST ARRIVED ON THE SCENE."

IT APPEARS THAT THE LIEUTENANT IS GOING TO ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE RESTAURANT ***UNARMED*** IN AN EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES.

WELL, FOLKS, IN LIGHT OF WHAT I'VE JUST WITNESSED, AND IN SPITE OF THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM, I CAN ONLY SAY ONE THING--

--THERE GOES ONE BRAVE COP.

YEAH. EITHER VERY BRAVE, OR VERY STUPID.

OR VERY, VERY CLEVER.

C'MON, BOYS, YOU GOT ME, LET THE OTHERS GO.

YOU MUST THINK WE'RE SOME KINDA IDIOTS, COP!

CHRIS, TAKE 'IM INTO THE KITCHEN AND TIE 'IM UP, THEN COME BACK OUT HERE.

I'LL BE IN TO TALK WITH YOU IN A MINUTE, PAL!

I CAN HARDLY WAIT.

GET IN THERE, YA FRIGGIN' WISEASS!

WHACK!

WHY, THAT DIRTY BUM!

I'LL MURDELIZE THE CREEP!

YOU'RE DEAD MEAT, COP!

BONK!

YOU REALLY KNEAD TO RELAX, MON AMI.

AND NOW I WILL MAKE A BEAUTIFUL CAKE FOR ZEE BOYS.

A COUPLE OF ZESE, A DASH OF ZAT, SOME OF ZIS--

A DOSE OF DOZE INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH SLEEPING PILLS

AND A WHOLE MESS OF THESE BABIES.

SO HERE WE ARE, STUCK, AND CINCINI AIN'T EVEN HERE.

WHAT WAS THE BOSS THINKING OF, SENDING US HERE THIS TIME OF DAY?

SERVICE

SNIFF SNIFF

CINCINNATI

HEY, THAT SMELLS PRETTY GOOD.

HEY, STUPID, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO STAY OUT HERE AND KEEP WATCH.

SERVICE

AND LET THOSE GUYS GLOM ALL THE FOOD? NO WAY.

OH, BOY!

'S GOOD, JOEY. HAVSUM.

WHERE THE HELL IS EVERY-BODY?

LOUIE!

DAVE, HEY, DAVID! SOMEONE ACED LOUIE!

DAVE!

DAVE, DAVE! YOU GOTTA WAKE UP, DAVID. WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!

OOHHHH, MOM'S GONNA KILL ME WHEN SHE FINDS OUT!

SLAP

SLAP

WHAM

AND NOW, SEÑOR TORO, YOU GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT.

OLÉ!

BOOM!

WUSSAT?

OH, LAY!

BOOM!

HOLY CRUD, DEY GOT CHRIS!

HOO-BOY!

BOOM!

WELL, THIS IS IT, WISE GUY!

INDEED IT IS, MY FRIEND. "THE MOMENT OF TRUTH"!

JUST AS SOON AS HE SHOWS HIS FACE...

AND SO, MY FRIEND, I BID YOU A FOND--

HOWDY!

BOOM!

BOOM!

OR MAYBE I SHOULDA SAID "GOOD-BYE."

AMAZING BUT TRUE. DETECTIVE KELLAWAY HAS MANAGED TO BRING ABOUT THE SAFE RELEASE OF *ALL* THE HOSTAGES HERE AT CINCINI'S RESTAURANT.

AND HERE HE COMES NOW!

YAYYY

YAAAYY

YAAAYY

WELL, I GUESS THIS'LL SHOW THE CAPTAIN WHO'S "AFRAID"!

LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY, DO YOU THINK THIS WILL HELP TO SHIFT THE FOCUS FROM YOUR PRESENT--

NO COMMENT.

IS IT TRUE THAT TWO OF THE GUNMEN ACTUALLY SHOT EACH OTHER--

WILL YOU RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE?

I'M SORRY, NO COMMENT.

I CAN'T COMMENT ON THAT.

HEH, HEH. I FIGURED HE'D BE HERE. I'LL JUST PLAY IT COOL.

KELLAWAAYYY!!!

HEY, CAPTAIN. HOW YOU DOIN'?

HOW'M I DOIN'?!

THE CHIEF, THE POLICE COMMISSIONER, AND THE MAYOR HAVE BEEN CHEWING ON MY ASS FOR THE LAST HOUR!

HOW THE HELL DO YOU THINK I'M DOIN'?!

BUT, CAPTAIN--

SHUT UP!

THAT WAS QUITE A LITTLE SHOW YOU PUT ON, KELLAWAY!

TOO BAD FOR YOU THE MAYOR ISN'T A CHARLES BRONSON FAN!

THERE'S NO ROOM FOR VIGILANTE JUSTICE ON THIS POLICE FORCE!

BUT--

AND I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT WHAT A FRIGGIN' HERO YOU ARE!

ALL I WANT FROM YOU NOW IS YOUR GUN, YOUR BUZZER, AND A LETTER OF RESIGNATION!

WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT! IN AN IRONIC TWIST OF FATE, LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY'S CAREER NOW SEEMS, INDEED, OVER.

TO THINK, HE SUBDUED FIVE MURDEROUS THUGS, ONLY-*

"FIVE BRAIN-LESS JERKS" IS MORE LIKE IT.

CLICK

WELL, BONNEVILLE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR "BY-THE-BOOK COP" NOW?

HOW CAN THEY DO THIS TO ME?

NOT EVEN AN ISRAELI COMMANDO SQUAD COULDA DONE A BETTER JOB.

AAHH, SO WHAT, RIGHT? I MEAN, WHAT DO I CARE IF I HAVE TO RESIGN? IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.

HELL, WHO'M I KIDDIN'? BEING A COP MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME.

WELL, AT LEAST I HAVE THE COMFORT OF KNOWING THINGS CAN'T GET ANY WORSE.

ALL RIGHT, KELLAWAY! HAND IT OVER!

YOU HEARD ME, LIEUTENANT! I WANT MY MASK!

...ALL I CAN SAY IS, I'M SORRY.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE MEN YOU KILLED? YOU CAN'T JUST APOLOGIZE THAT AWAY.

THOSE "MEN" WERE SCUMBAGS! EVERY LAST ONE OF 'EM TRIED TO KILL ME, OR SOMEBODY ELSE, BEFORE I KILLED THEM.

THE WORLD'S A BETTER PLACE WITHOUT 'EM.

THAT'S JUST WHAT THE NEWS SAID.

BUT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THIS THING WARPS YOUR MIND, TWISTS YOUR JUDGMENT.

ACTUALLY, I THINK I DO.

YOU DO?!

ALL I EVER WANTED TO DO WAS CLEAN UP THE TOWN A LITTLE.

WHEN THAT DIDN'T QUITE WORK, I MADE UP THIS PLAN TO SAVE MY CAREER.

WE BOTH KNOW HOW THAT TURNED OUT.

I GOT IT! WE'LL FORM A PARTNERSHIP.

A WHAT?

YOU'RE AFRAID TO KEEP IT YOURSELF, WHICH MAKES SENSE.

THE FACT IS, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO ENTRUST TO ANY *ONE* PERSON, RIGHT?

RIGHT.

CLICK

HERE. THIS IS THE ONLY KEY TO THAT DRAWER.

NOW, IF I EVER THINK THAT THE MASK CAN BE USEFUL, I'LL HAVE TO CONTACT YOU TO GET AT IT.

AND IF YOU THINK I'M WRONG, JUST DON'T GIVE ME THE KEY.

WHICH MAKES US PARTNERS.

WELL-L-L...

TRUST ME, KATHY, THIS THING IS TOO VALUABLE TO JUST THROW INTO THE RIVER.

NOW, HOW ABOUT SOME DINNER?

AND MAKE SURE HE DON'T PUT TOO MUCH MAYONNAISE ON IT THIS TIME. THE LAST TIME HE PILED ON SO MUCH I NEARLY PUKED.

YEAH, YEAH.

NOT *ENOUGH* MAYONNAISE, TOO *MUCH* MAYONNAISE.

I SWEAR, THAT GUY GIVES ME A REAL PAIN.

OPE

KEESH!

CLOSED

T-TRY TO LOOK AT THIS FROM MY PER-SPECTIVE.

I WAS LED TO BELIEVE THAT YOU WERE UNDER MR. CINCINI'S EMPLOY.

I WOULD NEVER HAVE PUT A CONTRACT OUT ON YOU IF I'D KNOWN THAT YOU WERE STILL ONE OF US.

SO FAR AS I CAN SEE, MY ONLY ERROR WAS DOUBTING YOUR LOYALTY.

THAT, AND HIRING A LOUSY KILLER!

U-U-URF!

SPLAT

BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM

F-FREEZE, M-M-MISTER!

NOW, YOU JUST GET YOUR HANDS UP WHERE WE CAN SEE 'EM...OKAY?

UH-- THANK YOU.

A WEEK PASSES, MAYBE MORE.

HEY THERE, LIONEL. MIND IF I CLEAN OUT MY DESK?

UHH-- NO. C'MON IN.

LISTEN--

ME FIRST, OKAY?

I JUST WANT TO SAY I'M SORRY FOR THE THINGS I SAID TO YOU ON THE STEPS LAST WEEK.

I HAVEN'T BEEN MYSELF LATELY. THINGS JUST GOT OUT OF CONTROL, AS I'M SURE YOU'VE NOTICED.

AH, FORGET ABOUT IT. HAPPENS TO ALL OF US.

BUT TAKE A LOOK AT THIS. WE FOUND IT ON BONNEVILLE'S BODY. YOU HEARD HE WAS KILLED, RIGHT?

SURE, BUT WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

LISTOR MUST HAND OUT HUNDREDS OF THESE.

BUT THAT'S LISTOR'S ***HOME PHONE NUMBER*** WRITTEN ON THERE.

I'M KEEPING MY EYE ON THAT SKUNK. MAYBE YOU'RE NOT ***OFFICIALLY*** A COP ANYMORE, BUT YOU WANT ME TO CALL YOU IF ANYTHING WEIRD HAPPENS?

STEVEN LISTOR
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
976-7432
PHONE
555-3141
555-3160

"YEAH, LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU FIND."

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR MEETING US ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, JUDGE DALEY.

ANYTHING TO SAVE THE TAXPAYERS MONEY. NOW, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.

YOUR HONOR, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FEELS THE GRAND JURY'S INDICTMENT WAS OVERLY HARSH.

IN SPITE OF THE DEFENDANT'S PRIOR CONVICTIONS, WE ARE ANXIOUS TO AVOID A LENGTHY, AND POTENTIALLY UNJUST, TRIAL.

MY CLIENT IS LUCKY TO BE ALIVE, AND PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE IF HE HADN'T ACTED AS HE DID.

HOWEVER, HE HAS DECIDED TO PLEAD GUILTY TO CRIMINALLY NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE, AND RELIES ON THE WISDOM OF THE COURT FOR A FAIR SENTENCE.

YES, YES. PERHAPS A LIGHT SENTENCE *IS* INDICATED. I THINK ONE AND A HALF TO THREE YEARS.

THE D.A. RECOMMENDS EARLY RELEASE, YOUR HONOR.

DULY NOTED, MR. LISTOR. BE SURE TO INFORM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THIS SESSION.

OF COURSE, YOUR HONOR.

IF I KEEP GETTING HOME THIS LATE, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO QUIT MY JOB.

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW, SOMEONE CALLED.

KATHY, THIS IS LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY. I JUST GOT A CALL FROM LIONEL, AND THERE'S A RAT BASTARD I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF RIGHT AWAY. THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT, SO CALL ME AS SOON AS YOU GET HOME.

HE SURE SOUNDED ANGRY. GOOD THING I'VE STILL GOT THE KEY TO THAT DRAWER.

"NOW THAT HE'S HAD TIME TO COOL OFF, THINK ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE--"

RIIINNGG

RIIINNGG

"--I'M SURE I CAN TALK HIM OUT OF USING THE MASK."

I AM *BEAT.* CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOME AND SINK INTO THE OLD JACUZZI.

HMMM. WHAT'S BETTER DRIVING MUSIC, GEORGE MICHAEL OR ROBERT CRAY?

WELL, WELL. IF IT AIN'T MISTER LISTOR. THE HUMAN BLISTER.

YAAAAA!

QUITE A CRUISING MACHINE YOU GOT HERE, PAL. DO YOU KNOW WHAT B.M.W. STANDS FOR?

BREAK MY WINDOW!

I KNOW YOU'RE A VERY BUSY MAN. BUT YOU'LL MAKE TIME FOR *ME*, WON'T YA'?

SOMEBODY, HELP ME! HE'S GOING TO KILL ME! HAAAALP!

C'MON, C'MON. GET THE LEAD OUT!

BUMP BUMP BUMP

...I REPEAT, THE "BIG-HEAD" MURDERER HAS BEEN SIGHTED. REQUESTING *SUBSTANTIAL* BACK-UP.

STEVEN LISTOR
ASST. DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KEEESH!

HEEYYY. SWANK OFFICE!

NOW, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, SHALL WE?

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE...

HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW, CAPTAIN.

"BIG-HEAD'S" TAKEN THE ASSISTANT D.A. HOSTAGE, AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S ROUGHED HIM UP SOME.

WHICH PROVES HE AIN'T SUCH A BAD GUY AFTER ALL.

YOU'RE A REGULAR RIOT, LIONEL. NO SHORTAGE OF LAUGHS WITH YOU AROUND.

ALL RIGHT, "BIG-HEAD." WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE. WE'LL GIVE YOU 60 SECONDS TO COME OUT.

THEN WE'RE COMING IN AFTER YOU!

HEY, IF YOU'RE IN SUCH A HURRY, THERE'S A JOHN DOWN AT CITY HALL TOO, Y'KNOW!

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO FIND?

Y'KNOW, STEVIE, FOR A LAWYER, YOU'RE A PRETTY DAMN AWFUL LIAR.

WHERE CAN IT BE? WHERE CAN IT BE?

OKAY, OKAY, SO YOU GUESSED IT BEFORE I DID, SO WHAT?

YOU WANT SOME KIND OF PRIZE OR SOMETHING? JEESH!

OH, NOW THIS REALLY BURNS ME UP, STEVE!

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY PATRIOTISM LIKE THIS!

UHH, THAT'S NOT MINE. NO, NO. THE PREVIOUS TENANT MUST HAVE INSTALLED IT. NEVER EVEN KNEW ABOUT IT.

CERTAINLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE COMBINATION MIGHT BE.

COMBINATION? I DON'T NEED NO STINKING COMBINATION!

WHERE THE HELL DID THAT COME FROM!!

EEEEY-HA!

BAM BAM BAM BAM

THE RECENT LOSS OF TWO FAVORED EMPLOYEES LEAVES US HIGHLY MOTIVATED TO HIRE A NEW, AH, LET US SAY, INSURANCE ADJUSTER.

I BELIEVE YOU'LL FIND OUR BENEFITS TO BE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE.

HEY, YOU CAN'T GO IN DERE!

DON MOZZO! I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU!

WELL, NOW THAT YOU'VE INTERRUPTED, WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT?

I'M SORRY, BUT IT'S THE ASSISTANT D.A.

THE POLICE RADIO SAYS HE'S BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE IN HIS OWN OFFICE.

WELL, THAT'S WHAT THIS CITY HAS POLICE FOR, NO?

BUT, DON, HE'S HELPED US SO MUCH, GETTING RAPAZ OUT, AND NOW WITH WALTER.

WE'RE NOT JUST GOING TO TURN OUR BACKS ON HIM, ARE WE?

WHY NOT?

WITH ANY LUCK, THE NEXT ASSISTANT D.A. WILL BE A LITTLE LESS EXPENSIVE.

ALL RIGHT, GET READY TO COVER ME.

YEAH, LIKE THESE GUNS ARE GONNA SCARE *HIM*.

FREEZE!

WHAT THE FRIG...?

HEY, THIS IS THE JUNK ME AND THE LIEUTENANT SEIZED IN THE RAPAZ BUST. WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?

AND MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME WHERE ALL THIS CASH CAME FROM, LISTOR.

OR WILL I FIND ALL THE ANSWERS IN THIS LITTLE NOTEBOOK?

DO YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE SOME ELABORATE SETUP?

I MEAN, YOU KNOW WHAT "BIG-HEAD" IS CAPABLE OF.

WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT'S A POSSI-BILITY...

DID YOU SEE MY NOTEBOOK, ALL THE APPOINTMENTS I MADE WITH DON MOZZO AND HIS LAWYERS?

THAT'S MY HAND-WRITING. I'M GUILTY. LOCK ME UP AND THROW AWAY THE KEY. FEED ME BREAD AND WATER.

...BUT I DON'T THINK SO.

ONLY, ***PLEASE***, KEEP THAT MANIAC AWAY FROM ***ME!***

AND YOU HAVE **ME** TO THANK, GENTLE-MEN.

PLEASE, HOLD BACK YOUR APPLAUSE.

I KNOW YOU'D LIKE TO SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION, BUT I CAN THINK OF A FAR MORE CONSTRUC-TIVE OUTLET FOR IT.

THIS LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY, HE'S A GOOD GUY, BUT YOU'VE REALLY BEEN GIVING HIM THE SHAFT OF LATE.

I'M NOT SAYING HE'S PERFECT, BUT THEN, WHO IS? MAYBE YOU PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR HIM WITH THE COMMISSIONER, TRY AND GET THE OLD BOY REINSTATED.

I'D CONSIDER THAT AN AWFULLY NICE GESTURE.

ALL RIGHT, BOYS.

IMMOLATE THE SON OF A BITCH!

BOOM BANG BLAM RATATAT BA-BOOM!

Y'KNOW SOMETHING, GUYS, I'VE ALWAYS FELT--

--THAT GUNS ARE STRESSED FAR TOO MUCH IN OUR CULTURE.

HOW 'BOUT YOU?

I ASKED YOU LITTLE WUSSIES A@¢%*ING QUESTION!

HE...HE... JUST STOOD THERE. ALL THOSE GUNS... DID NOTHING.

ISN'T THAT WHAT ME AND KELLAWAY TOLD YOU? DID YOU THINK WE WERE LYING?!

KELLAWAY! THAT'S RIGHT! HE KNOWS ALL ABOUT THIS GUY. WHY DON'T WE CALL HIM?

'CAUSE YOU FIRED HIM, REMEMBER?

NEVER TRIED VEHICULAR ASSAULT ON THIS GUY BEFORE.

MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IT A SHOT.

CHOP!

WHOO-CRUNCH-OOSH

LOOK, I *HAD* TO ORDER THOSE MEN TO SHOOT AT YOU! IT'S MY JOB TO ENFORCE THE LAW.

I THOUGHT YOUR JOB WAS TASTE-TESTER DOWN AT DONUT FAIR.

RRRIP

AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING IN TOO MUCH OVER-TIME.

AAAIIEEEEE!

COME BACK HERE, YOU FLABBY EUNUCH!

HA HA HA

eh?

WHACK

YEAH, YOU'RE A REGULAR HARD GUY WITH ALL YOUR WEAPONS, BUT I WANT TO SEE HOW YOU MEASURE UP WITH YOUR FISTS.

THAT IS, IF YOU'RE MAN ENOUGH!

ARRAAH!

THOK

WHACK

MAN ENOUGH ?!

MAN ENOUGH ?!

WHACK

CRACKK

UHHNFF

I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S MAN ENOUGH !

THINK YOU'RE TOUGH, BIG MAN ?!

LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH YOU ARE!

YOU JUST LET ME HANDLE THIS MY WAY. TRUST ME, THIS GUY'S NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.

FLICK

GOOD GOD! WHAT AM I DOING?

SSSSS

NO, NO. IT'S YOU!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!

SSSSS

SWiPE!

BA-BOOM!!

A FEW HOURS LATER, AFTER THE SIX O'CLOCK NEWS...

DAMMIT, KELLAWAY, I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!

BANG BANG BANG

I WANT MY MASK BACK, AND NONE OF YOUR FAST-TALKING BULL THIS TIME.

YOU OBVIOUSLY WON'T ACCEPT IT, BUT THAT THING IS TOO DANGEROUS FOR *ANYBODY* TO OWN.

QUICK DRYING CEMENT

SO I'M GOING TO PUT IT SOMEPLACE WHERE NO ONE WILL EVER GET AT IT AGAIN.

NOT EVEN YOU!

10 M

THE MASK WILL RETURN!

THE MASK RETURNS

script
JOHN ARCUDI

art
DOUG MAHNKE

colors
CHRIS CHALENOR

lettering
PAT BROSSEAU

title illustration
DOUG MAHNKE

THREE WEEKS AGO, POLICE LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY INTERVENED IN A HOSTAGE SITUATION. HE PUT FIVE SOLDIERS OF THE MOZZO FAMILY OUT OF COMMISSION AND EMERGED A HERO.

HE WAS SUSPENDED FROM THE FORCE FOR HIS TROUBLES.

CRIPES, CALUCCI, YOU GOTTA LAY OFF THAT PORK FRIED RICE.

UP YERS! OOF!

TONIGHT, DON CESARE MOZZO'S MEN WILL ATTEMPT TO MAKE THAT SUSPENSION PERMANENT.

HEY, D'YA KNOW WHICH ONE IS THE BEDROOM? 'CAUSE I REMEMBER ONE TIME, WE HADDA GO FROM ROOM--

HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOIN', STUPID. HE ALWAYS KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOIN'. THAT'S WHY DON MOZZO HIRED HIM.

PERSONALLY, I THINK WE SHOULD BLOW THE WHOLE HOUSE UP. THAT'S HOW I'D DO IT.

WELL, YOU AIN'T DOIN' IT. BESIDES, DON MOZZO WANTS TO MAKE ***SURE*** THIS COP IS DEAD AFTER ALL THE GRIEF HE'S GIVEN US.

Y'KNOW, I STILL CAN'T FIGGER HOW HE GOT LOUIE AND THE GANG, ALL BY HISSELF. I MEAN--

SHUT

UP!

I DON'T KNOW WHO SENT YOU, BUDDY...

...BUT I'M DELIVERING YOU STRAIGHT TO HELL.

BLAM

WHONK

UHHH, HI THERE.

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

OUTTA MY WAY, FAT BOY!

I'M GONNA MAKE IT, I'M GONNA MAKE IT.

DAMMIT! I FORGOT ABOUT THE CAR.

DRIVER PROBABLY HAS A SHOTGUN, IN CASE I GOT THIS FAR.

YOW!!

THUNK

THWIP THWIP THWIP

PRETTY GOOD SILENCER, BUT *THIS'LL* HELP WAKE THE NEIGHBORS.

GREAT, JUST GREAT.

CLICK

THWIP THWIP THWIP

OUT OF AMMO!

GUESS THAT'S WHY THE FORCE ENCOURAGED US TO USE AUTOMATICS.

NOBODY BETTER BE OUT BACK, 'CAUSE IT'S EITHER THE BACK WAY--

--OR THE BASEMENT!

BARRY, GET OUTSIDE. HE LOCKED HISSELF IN THE CELLAR, AND HE MIGHT TRY ONE OF THE WINDOWS.

HAD HE WANTED OUT, HE WOULD HAVE USED THIS OTHER DOOR.

WELL, THEN WHAT THE FRIG'S HE DOIN' DOWN THERE?

CAN'T BE SURE.

BUT IT SOUNDS AS IF HE'S DIGGING.

THERE! THERE IT IS!

KRAAK

THWIP THWIP THWIP

JUNK

SAY, WHATTAYA SUPPOSE WAS SO IMPORTANT DOWN HERE THAT HE'D GO DIGGING FOR IT *NOW?*

TAKE A LOOK IN THE SACK.

CRIPES, I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

IT'S SOME KINDA MASK!

MUST BE WORTH QUITE A BIT.

BRING IT WITH YOU.

HEH HEH

HEH HEH

TH-TH-THERE WAS A LOT OF SH-SH-SHOOTING.

I TH-TH-THOUGHT TH-TH-THINGS WERE GOING POORLY. I ALMOST L-L-LEFT WITHOUT YOU.

IF YOU HAD, I WOULD HAVE FOUND YOU AND KILLED YOU.

NOW GET US OUT OF HERE.

SPEED IT UP, DAMN YOU!

YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE TO HEAR THOSE SHOTS!

ALL RIGHT. D-D-DON'T HAVE TO Y-Y-YELL.

C-C-C'MON, PAL, PUT THE P-P-PEDAL TO THE M-M-METAL.

RRRRRRR. DIRTY NO GOOD #@*%¢'S!

LOOK WHAT WE BRUNG YOU. A MASK TO HIDE YER UGLY PUSS.

HEY, I C-C-CAN'T SEE! G-G-GET IT OFF MY F-F-FACE! I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!

W-W-WAIT A MINUTE, WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT?

I CAN SEE EVERY-THING!!

MASKWAR

NOW THEN...

WHO SAID THEY WANTED TO GO FASTER?

WARNER BOOKS

VVVVIRROOM

RANDY'S CANDYS

SSSSLOW DOWWWNNN...

♫WE GOT A GORILLA FOR SALE, MAGILLA, GORILLA FOR SALE...♫

SSSLOW, OR I K-KILLL.

OH·THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

FIRST IT'S SPEED UP, NOW IT'S SLOW DOWN...

MAKE UP YOUR MIND!

KA-RUNK

KEECH

CREECH

WHEW! WHATTA STOP.

YOU GUYS ALL RIGHT?

HEY GUYS, ARE YOU--

YOIKS!

NOW THERE'S AN AD FOR SEAT BELTS!

BILL'S LIQUOR WAREHOUSE

SAY, LOOKEE HERE.

WELL, I'LL BE. THIS MASK HAS MADE ME ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS!

EXCEPT FOR THAT CRACK RUNNING DOWN THE MIDDLE OF MY FACE.

IT'S ALSO MADE ME...

INVULNERABLE

BIG BANK

STINGERS AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND PARTY SUPPLIES

MINI GUNS

'SCUSE ME, FELLAS.

I'VE GOTTA FIND OUT WHAT ELSE THIS MASK CAN DO.

MANY MILES AWAY, WALTER IS BECOMING ACCLIMATED TO THE DOVER STATE PENI-TENTIARY.

WHAT ARE YOU STARIN' AT *ME* FOR?

SMASH!

WHO THE HELL DID THAT!

H-HE DID, JOHNNY.

HEH HEH.

HI, WALTER.

♫♪♫♪♫

AND THE DOVER STATE PENITENTIARY IS BECOMING ACCLIMATED TO WALTER.

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE CITY...

TERS MUSIC

BARF BAG THE HURL

SPEED PIG

MONSTER MEAT HOOK

DeNUCCI'S PASTRY

NO, BOSS, WE AIN'T HEARD NUTHIN'.

DeNUCCI'S PASTRY

HOBNAIL SHOE & REPAIR

SADDLE SOAP SALE

YEAH, I KNOW.

AS SOON AS DEY GET BACK, CALL YOU.

GEEZ, WHAT A LOUSY PICTURE OF OLIN HOWARD.

CLICK

WHOA, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

WHERE IS HE? I GOTTA TALK TO THE BOSS.

HOLD ON A SECOND, WHAT DO YOU WANNA GO IN THERE FOR?

I TOLD YOU, I HAVE TO TALK TO DON MOZZO.

WHATEVER MESSED YOU UP MUSTA KNOCKED LOOSE SOME BRAINS.

DON MOZZO LEFT FOR MIAMI LAST NIGHT, BEFORE YOU WENT TO ICE THE COP.

MIAMI?

YEAH, DON'TCHA REMEM-BER?

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO CALL HIM AS SOON AS YOU GOT BACK.

MIAMI?!

MIAMI?!

YEAH! LISTEN, YOU WANT TO TALK TO HIM, I'LL GIVE HIM A CALL.

AND YOU CAN TELL HIM WHAT WENT WRONG, 'CAUSE SOMETHIN' OBVIOUSLY DID.

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, LAUGHING BOY?

Y-YER FACE...IT RIPPED!

AHH, I SEE. ICY COLD SOFT DRINKS.

HEY! WHO YELLED "MIAMI"?

FORGET ABOUT THAT.

OKAY. SO I'M NOT ONE OF THE BOYS.

BUT ONE OF YOU GOOFBALLS MUST RECOGNIZE ME, RIGHT?

I KNOW, I KNOW. YER THE BIG-HEAD KILLER, RIGHT?

BINGO!!

YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!

OOOH, YOU'RE SCARIN' ME.

Y'KNOW, THE COPS BLASTED HIM TO HELL, AND HE STILL LOOKS OKAY TO ME.

I HEARD EVEN *WALTER* COULDN'T DO HIM IN.

EXACTLY. SO MOZZO IS OUT, AND **I'M** IN.

AND I SAY, WE EXPAND OUR TERRITORY OF OPERATIONS.

YOU JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.

BUT MR. BIG-HEAD, YOU TRY TO DO THAT, YOU'LL HAVE A WAR ON YOUR HANDS.

ACROSS TOWN, GIUSEPPE PESCADO HAS JUST MARRIED OFF HIS YOUNGEST DAUGHTER.

THE RECEPTION IS A STRICTLY FORMAL AFFAIR, BULLET-PROOF VEST OPTIONAL.

PARDON ME, SIR, BUT I HEAR DON MOZZO--

PLEASE, ALPHONSE, NO BUSINESS HERE.

THIS IS A WEDDING RECEPTION.

OKAY, EVERYBODY, IT'S TIME FOR THE FAMILY PORTRAIT!

OKAY, THAT'S PERFECT.

NOW SMILE ...

AND SAY "DECEASED!"

WARNING
DO NOT STRIKE WITH HAMMER

BA-DA-BOOM!

I JUST LOVE WEDDINGS.

HEY, JACKIE!

EH?

Star Tribune

PESCADO CRIME CL

WIPED OUT IN BOMB AT

THE ORIENT

FAR E

MR. YUNG IS WAITING.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, MR. YUNG.

EMPIRE HUNAN

CHOWS

YOU ARE FIRED.

GENTLEMEN.

MR. YUNG HAS ARRIVED.

MY COLLEAGUES, I DO NOT HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT THESE ARE TURBULENT DAYS.

GIUSEPPE PESCADO AND HIS FAMILY HAVE BEEN OBLITERATED, AND RUMORS SUGGEST CESARE MOZZO IS MISSING.

THE TIME IS RIPE FOR GROWTH.

KLASH

WHAT, HO!

THE ELDER ORDER OF THE "BLACK DRAGONS" DOTH SUP AS ONE THIS EVE.

METHINKS AN OCCASION TO SLAY THE LOT OF THEM IS AT HAND.

WHAT DO YOU THINKS?

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

KILL THIS MADMAN!

AHHH. THIS DOTH PROVIDE GREATER MIRTH THAN A CASK OF JACKANAPES EVER COULD.

VERILY.

OH, GOD, I'M SO, SO SORRY, LIEUTENANT.

WHEN I SAW THE TV REPORTS, I WAS SO QUICK TO BLAME YOU FOR THE CRIMES, BUT NOW I CAN SEE--

IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

THERE, THERE. YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF.

BUT IT *IS* MY FAULT, DETECTIVE LIONEL.

I TRIED TO UNLOAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MASK ONTO LIEUTENANT KELLA-WAY--

NO SMOKING

AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM!

THE FACT IS, IT'S *MY* RESPONSIBILITY, AND I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

NOW HOLD ON, KATHY--

NO! I WON'T HOLD ON!

I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO, AND NOTHING YOU CAN SAY WILL STOP ME.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO STOP YOU!

302

I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE TALK-ING ABOUT!

THE DON IS IN:OUT

YO, BOSS! SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU.

MUSIC

WAYNE NEWTONS GREATEST HITS

SINATRA SINATRA SINATRA

PERRY COMO LIVE

CHECK ALL GUNS AT THE DOOR

DeNUCCI'S PASTRY

HOBNAIL SHOE & GUN REPAIR

YEAH? WHERE IS HE?

SHE'S IN THERE.

'SCUSE ME, LADIES.

POiNK

HERE, KEEP THIS BURNING FOR ME.

YEAH, HONEY, WHATTAYA WANT WITH ME?

AH-WOOOGA!

DON'T CALL ME HONEY, *BUSTER!*

THE NAME IS KATHY.

POLICE NOT WELCOME

NATRA NATRA NATRA

I'M TELLING YOU, IT JUST AIN'T RIGHT.

CHECK ALL GUNS AT THE DOOR

THIS GUY'S GOT NO VALUE FOR TRADITIONS.

MOZZO MAY HAVE PISSED ME OFF ONCE OR TWICE, BUT HE ALWAYS RESPECTED TRADITION, KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING?

AND ANOTHER THING --

LOOK, BENNY, YOU GOT A GRIPE, DON'T SQUAWK TO ME.

THERE'S THE MAN YOU WANT TO TALK TO.

I LOVE TO SING-A, ABOUT THE MOON-A AND THE JUNE-A AND THE SPRING-A

HEY, YOU CRAZY BASTARD!

UH OH, BOSS.

LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE.

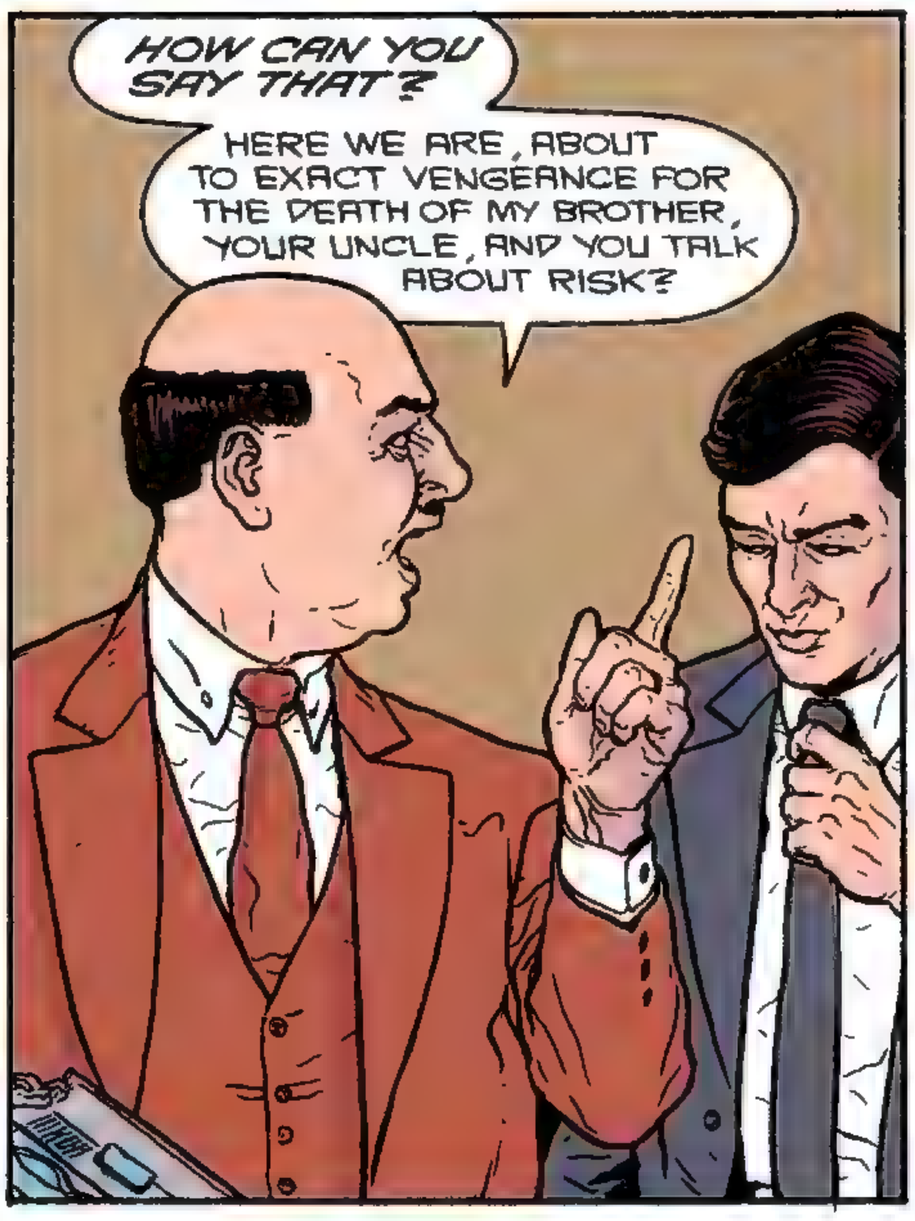
TELL THE DON THAT EUGENE PESCADO OF PHILLY WOULD LIKE A WORD WITH HIM.

NOW!!

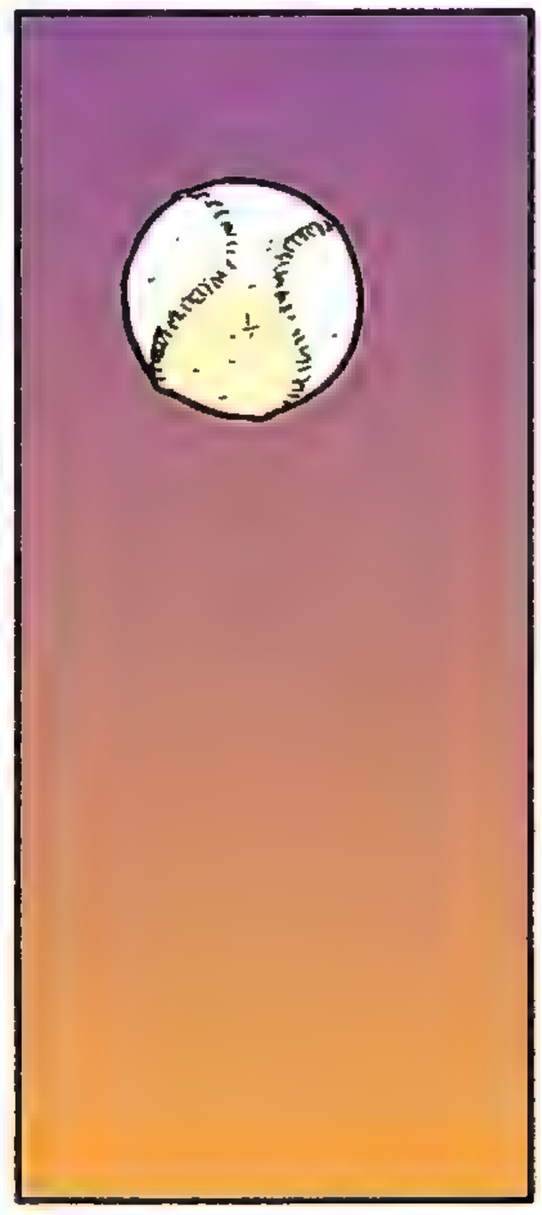
HEY, BOSS, YOU HEAR THA--

BOSS?

WE'RE GONNA MAKE THIS SCUM-BAG PAY.
NOBODY KILLS A PESCADO AND GET'S AWAY WITH IT, RIGHT SON?
YEAH, DAD. WHATEVER YOU SAY, ONLY, AIN'T THIS A LITTLE RISKY?
UPTOWN BAR & GRILL
ARGOS cafe
WE COULD GET ARRESTED, CARRYING GUNS IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS.


HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
HERE WE ARE, ABOUT TO EXACT VENGEANCE FOR THE DEATH OF MY BROTHER, YOUR UNCLE, AND YOU TALK ABOUT RISK?

BESIDES, THE CAPTAIN OF THIS PRECINCT IS A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE.
HELLO.



PLAY BALL.

CRACK

OOF!

EEEEEEEEE

C'MON! LET'S GET `IM!

BONK!

HERE COMES RED!!!

HE'S PAST THE 30, THE 35, THE 40, THE 50, THE 60, THE 70, THE 80, THE 90--

TOUCHDOWN!!!

THE DON IS

THE CROWD GOES WILD!!!!

13

WELL, THE CROWD GOES. ANYWAY.

HOLY...

DIDJA SEE THE GAME, KATHY. DIDJA?

I SCORED THAT LAST TD FOR YOU, YOU KNOW.

YOU KNOW. A FEW PRO TEAMS HAVE MADE ME SOME OFFERS, BUT I TOLD 'EM I HAD TO FINISH SCHOOL FIRST.

I THINK THAT'S BEST, DON'T YOU?

H-HEY, BOSS. DON'TCHA THINK MAYBE WE SHOULD GET OUTTA HERE?

PARDON ME.

WHOMK!

WHAT HAVE I SAID ABOUT INTERRUPTING ME WHEN I'M TALKING WITH A LADY!?!

YOU NEVER SAID NOTHING ABOUT THAT, BOSS.

OH, WELL THEN, WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

WELL, I WAS JUST THINKING, WITH ALL THOSE FELLAS LYING AROUND OUTSIDE, MAYBE THE COPS MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING ON YOU.

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOURE CALLING ME A POLTROON, TOMMY M'BOY.

OH, I DON'T KNOW.

THE THOUGHT OF GOING SOMEPLACE ELSE WHERE WE COULD BE MORE ...PRIVATE HAS IT'S ATTRACTION.

GET THE GUYS TOGETHER AND MEET ME OUT BACK, TOMMY.

I KNOW JUST THE PLACE.

MIAMI. HOT, HUMID, AND BUG-INFESTED.

THE PERFECT VACATION SPOT.

DON'T TELL ME YOU CAN'T DO THIS, FRANCIS--

BECAUSE IF YOU CAN'T DO IT, YOU'RE WORTHLESS TO ME, AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

PLEASE, DON MOZZO, TRY TO SEE IT FROM MY STANDPOINT.

THE HEAT HAS REALLY BEEN ON UP HERE SINCE LISTOR'S ARREST.

I KNOW THAT, FRANCIS.

DO YOU THINK I CAME TO MIAMI FOR MY HEALTH?

BUT NOBODY IS GOING TO TAKE ANY NOTE OF *THIS*. IT'S TOO SMALL A MATTER.

THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY FROM WHERE YOU SIT.

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FRIENDSHIP, I'M GOING TO FORGET YOU JUST SAID THAT, FRANCIS.

NOW GET TO WORK.

HERE.

AND GET ME ANOTHER ONE OF THESE.

DO YOU THINK HE'LL DO IT, BOSS?

DON'T ASK STUPID QUESTIONS, HOWARD.

BUT MISTER ALBERT, THE FILE SAYS--

JUST SHUT UP AND MAKE THE CALL, ANNA!

Francis Albert

PAROLE BOARD CHAIRMAN

GOOD LORD, WHY DID I EVER GET INTO GRAFT?

OH, WALTER AIN'T SO BAD. JUST A LITTLE TOUCHY IS ALL.

HE'S NOT LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, REALLY.

FACT IS, IF YOU CAN LEARN HOW TO TALK TO HIM, HE'S A PRETTY NICE GUY.

HI, WALTER.

YRA-ACK

AAIIIIIII!!

PARDON ME, WALTER.

UM, LISTEN, THE WARDEN WANTS TO SEE YOU.

B-BUT IT'S GOOD NEWS, HONEST.

WARDEN TOLD ME THAT THE PAROLE BOARD WANTS TO RE-VIEW YOUR CASE EARLY.

THEY SIGHTED YOUR "EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOR IN THE PRISON POPULATION" AS THE REASON.

I'LL BE ROOTING FOR YOU, WALTER.

WHACK!

RAP RAP

YEAH?

UH, HIYA, LIONEL.

WELL, HELLO, CAPTAIN! PLEASE, COME IN!

HOW'VE YOU BEEN?

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, CAPTAIN?

UM, SINCE BIG-HEAD HAS GONE PUBLIC AGAIN, THE BRASS HAVE BEEN REALLY LEANING ON ME.

WELL, THEN YOU'D BETTER GET SOMEBODY RIGHT ON IT, EH?

AWW, C'MON, LIONEL, YOU KNOW WHAT I'M ASKING YOU.

MAYBE I DO, CAPTAIN.

BUT IT'S MORE FUN WATCHING YOU SQUIRM LIKE THIS.

LOOK, I KNOW KELLAWAY'S GETTING SHOT HAS BEEN ROUGH ON YOU.

IT'S BEEN ROUGH ON ALL OF US.

NOT ON YOU. YOU HAVEN'T EVEN DROPPED BY THE HOSPITAL TO SEE HIM.

HEY, YOU KNOW WE NEVER GOT ALONG. I JUST FIGURED HE WOULDN'T BE TOO HAPPY TO SEE ME.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?!

THE MAN'S IN A #@¢%ING COMA!!!

YOU DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT KELLAWAY.

DON'T WORRY, CAPTAIN, I'LL TAKE ON THE BIG-HEAD CASE, BUT NOT BECAUSE YOU ASKED ME TO.

I'LL TAKE IT BECAUSE I'M A COP. AT LEAST FOR NOW.

JUST STAY THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY, YOU GOT THAT?

AND YOU GET YOUR FAT, GREASY ASS OFF MY PARTNER'S DESK!!

DON MOZZO'S PRIVATE HOME, IN THE "GIORGIO" PART OF TOWN.

YEAH. YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING IN THE FRIDGE. COLD CUTS. BEER. WHATEVER.

THAT OUGHTA KEEP THOSE GOONS BUSY FOR A WHILE.

NOW. LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.

R-R-R-RIIIP

WELL, THAT'S FINE, BUT AREN'T YOU GOING TO TAKE THAT OFF?

HUH?

WHATTAYA MEAN?

AWW, COME ON, BABY, THAT CAN'T BE YOUR REAL FACE, ALL GREEN LIKE THAT.

I WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE UNDER THERE.

NO WAY, LADY!

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

ARE YOU... AFRAID TO TAKE IT OFF?

ALL YOU HAVETA KNOW IS THAT THIS AIN'T COMIN' OFF.

GOT THAT?

YES, BUT YOU WON'T BE GETTING ANYTHING.

NOT AS LONG AS YOU'RE PLAYING "MASQUERADE."

W-W-WAIT.

I'LL T-T-TAKE IT OFF.

NO!

NO WE WON'T! NOT AS LONG AS I'M IN CHARGE.

WH-WHAT AM I S-S-SAYING? I C-C-CAN TAKE IT OFF IF I WANT TO.

HAVEN'T T-T-TAKEN IT OFF IN OVER A WEEK. M-M-MAKES ME S-S-SO P-P-PARANOID. N-NEED A REST.

WHEW!

I G-G-GUESS IT WAS A L-L-LITTLE T-TOUGH FOR ME TO B-BELIEVE YOU LIKE ME F-F-FOR M-M-ME.

Y-Y-YOU SEE, I N-N-NEVER HAD A G-GIRL-FRIEND BE-FORE.

TH-TH-THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T L-L-LET YOU LEAVE, 'CAUSE Y-Y-YOU R-R-REALLY--

SAVE IT, BUDDY!

JUST PUT YOUR HANDS UP AND GET AWAY FROM THE MASK.

--LIKE ...ME.

LOOK, I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO DO THIS.

THAT THING IS TOO DANGEROUS.

YOU'VE FELT THE POWER IT HOLDS, HOW IT COURSES THROUGH YOU.

YOU MUST REALIZE NOW HOW TERRIBLE IT IS.

YOU LOOK LIKE A REALLY NICE GUY, AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO HURT YOU.

SO I'LL JUST TAKE THE MASK--

NO!!!!

BANG BANG

HEY, WHAT GIVES!?!

PEPE, GET HER.

WE'LL CHECK ON THE BOSS.

I NEVER TRUSTED THAT BITCH.

THIS AIN'T THE BOSS, TOMMY! IT'S LITTLE NUNZIO, OUR DRIVER. WHATTAYA SUPPOSE HE'S DOING HERE?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE--

-- BUT I'M GONNA FIND OUT!

BAM

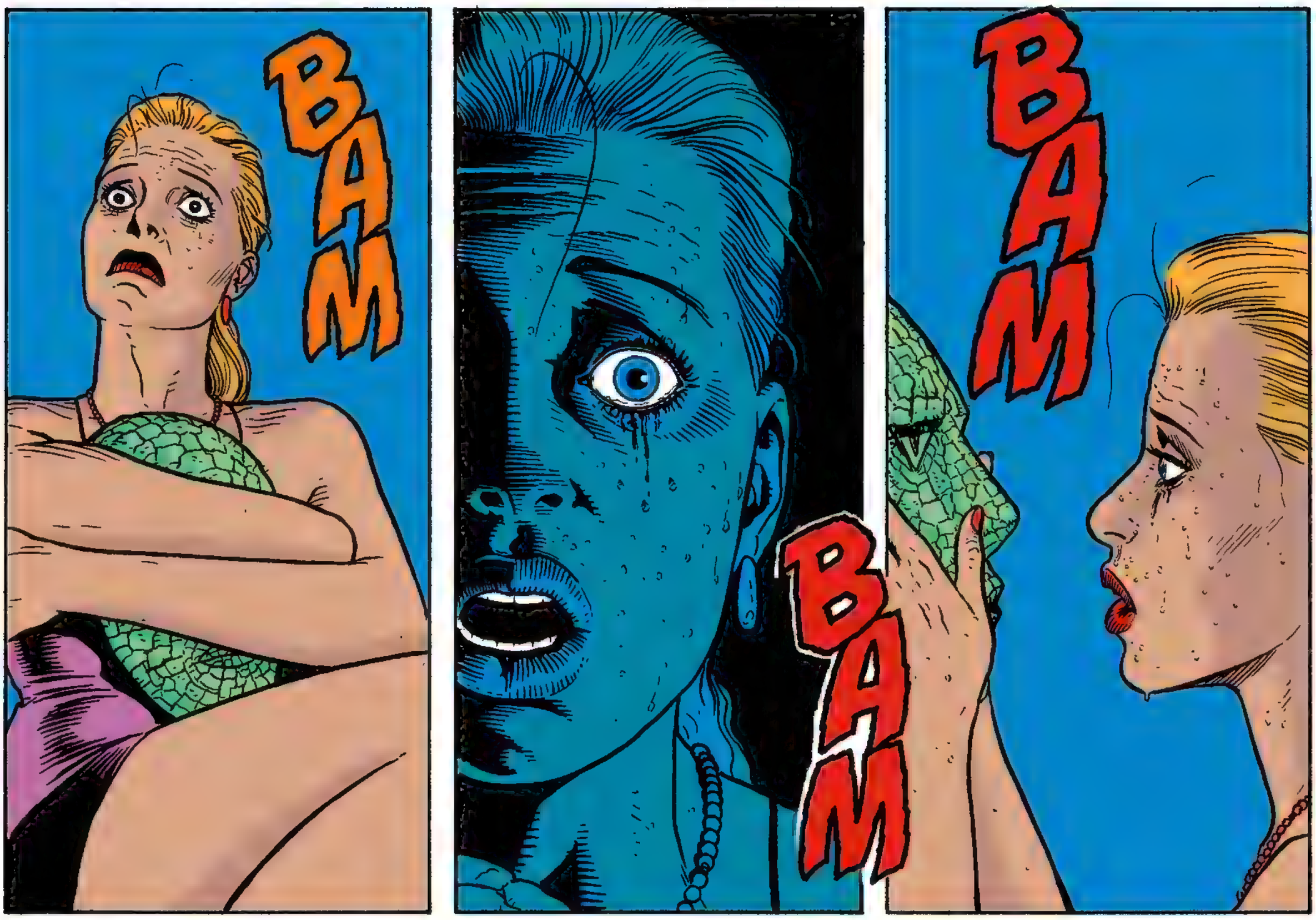
HEY, TOMMY. AFTER WE GET HER OUTTA THE ATTIC, SHE MIGHT NOT TALK.

WHATTA WE DO THEN?

"WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, BENNY?!"

BAM

BAM


BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM

CRASH

FUN'S OVER, BABE.

SHE... SHE'S GONE!

RATATATATATAT!

I'M GONE ALL RIGHT.

REAL GONE!

AAA YAAA AA

ZZZIP

WOO

YOUR CAR'S BACK THAT WAY, MITCH.

YOU ARE HEADING BACK TO YOUR CAR, AIN'T YOU?

YEAH, OF COURSE. I-I GUESS I JUST GOT LOST.

I GUESS SO.

FOR A SECOND THERE, WE THOUGHT YOU WAS TRYING TO CHEAT MR. RAZZIKY OUTTA HIS MASK.

HEY, HE PAID ME GOOD MONEY TO GET THE MASK FOR HIM.

IT'S ALL HIS.

I'M HAPPY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, MITCH.

HAND IT OVER.

SURE THING. I'M KIND OF SURPRISED AT YOU, PETE, FOLLOWING ME AROUND LIKE YOU DON'T TRUST ME.

YEAH, WELL YOU KNOW HOW MR. RAZZIKY IS. ALWAYS PROTECTIN' HIS INVESTMENTS.

JOHNNY, PLEASE KILL MITCH.

CLICK

HOLD IT!!

THIS IS ONE OF THE REPLICAS MR. RAZZIKY HAD MADE.

IT'S A FAKE.

REALLY?

THEN THIS ONE MUST BE THE REAL THING!

SAY "HI" TO SATAN FOR ME, BOYS.

AAH!

WHAT A WEIRD DREAM.

OR WAS IT?

IS THAT WHERE YOU CAME FROM?

THEN HOW IN HELL DID YOU GET UP HERE? DID THIS MITCH GUY BRING YOU?

AHH, WHO CARES?

I GOT ENOUGH TROUBLE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW I CAN SAFELY GET RID OF THIS THING--

BECAUSE I OBVIOUSLY CAN'T DESTROY IT.

I CAN'T JUST THROW IT AWAY. SOMEBODY ELSE WOULD FIND IT.

AND SO FAR AS I KNOW, I'M THE ONLY PERSON WHO'S HAD THIS THING WITHOUT ABUSING IT.

THAT LAST GUY REALLY MADE A MESS OF THIS CITY.

Star Tribune

Three Children Killed in another mob shooting

I JUST WISH THERE WERE SOME WAY FOR ME TO UNDO THAT DAMAGE.

NAAAHH

GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE BACK ON THE STREETS.

YOU KNOW, I HAD A LOT TO DO WITH THAT.

NOT THAT YOU OWE ME ANYTHING. CERTAINLY NOT.

SCHICK

NOT A THING.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.

I FLEW BACK UP FROM MIAMI BECAUSE I KNEW YOU WOULD ONLY DEAL DIRECTLY WITH ME AFTER OUR -- MISUNDER-STANDING, SHALL WE SAY?

I'M TAKING A RISK, BEING UP HERE LIKE THIS.

BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME THAT YOU ARE SATISFIED.

THE POINT -- THE *THING* IS, THAT BIG-HEAD BASTARD IS BACK, AND HE'S MAKING REAL TROUBLE FOR ME.

FOR EVERYBODY.

SUSUSUK

URRHHH--I'M TAKING SOME MEASURES, OF COURSE.

BUT I'LL STILL NEED PROTECTION--AND I KNOW--IF--IF--ANYONE CAN PROTECT ME--

SSSSK

FOR GOD'S SAKE, WALTER, STOP IT! YOU'RE MAKING ME SICK!

I MEAN, YOU--YOU COULD HURT YOURSELF DOING THAT.

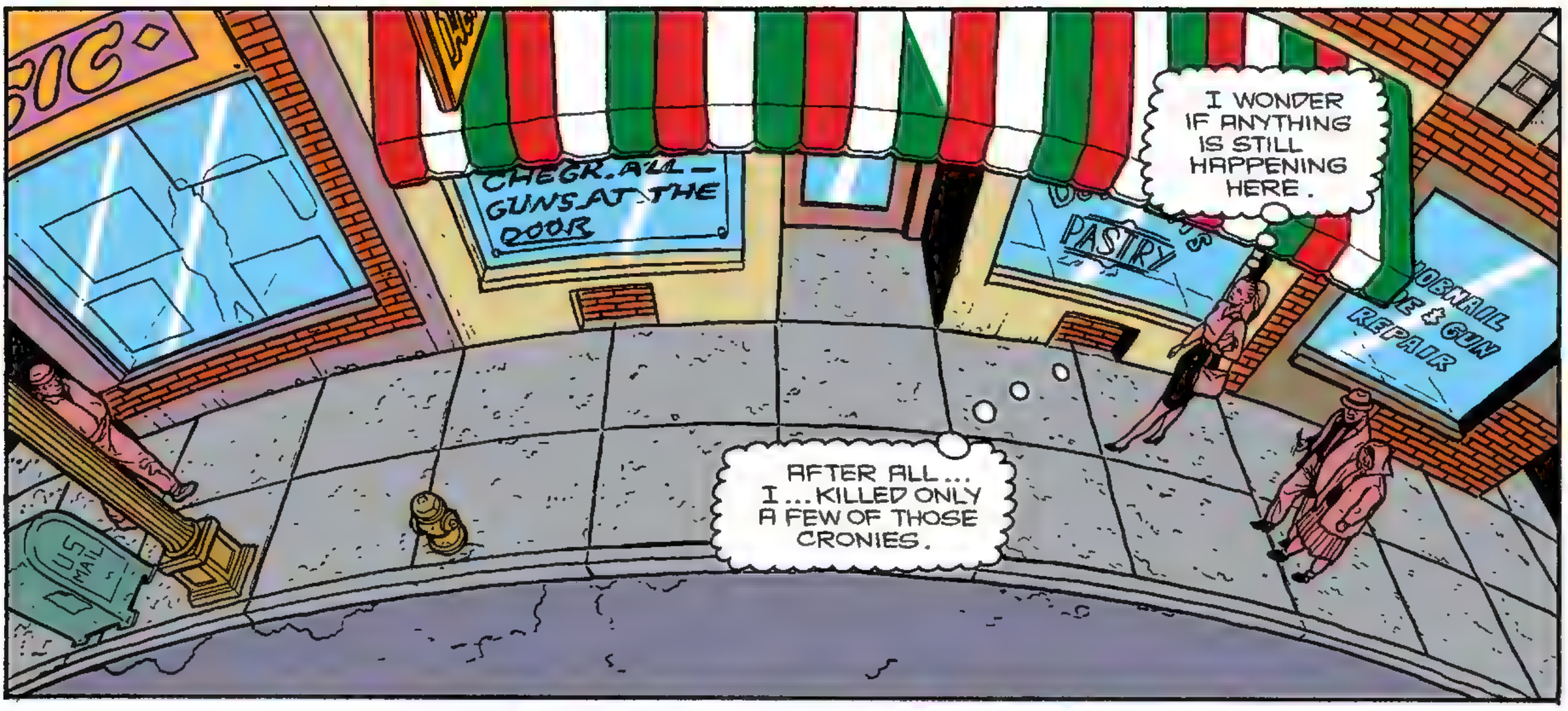
I- I'M AWFULLY SORRY, WALTER.

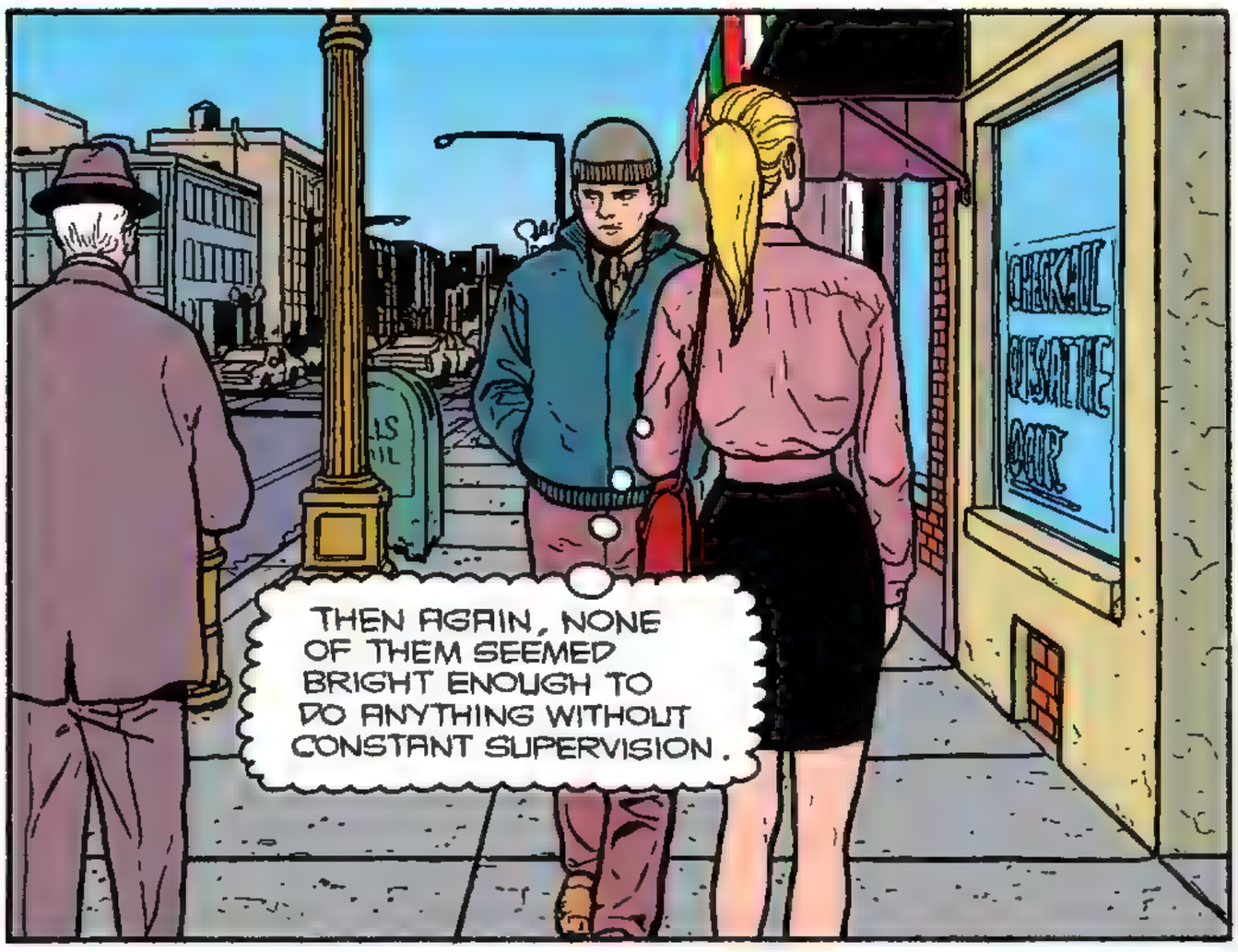
IT'S JUST ALL THE STRAIN I'VE BEEN UNDER.

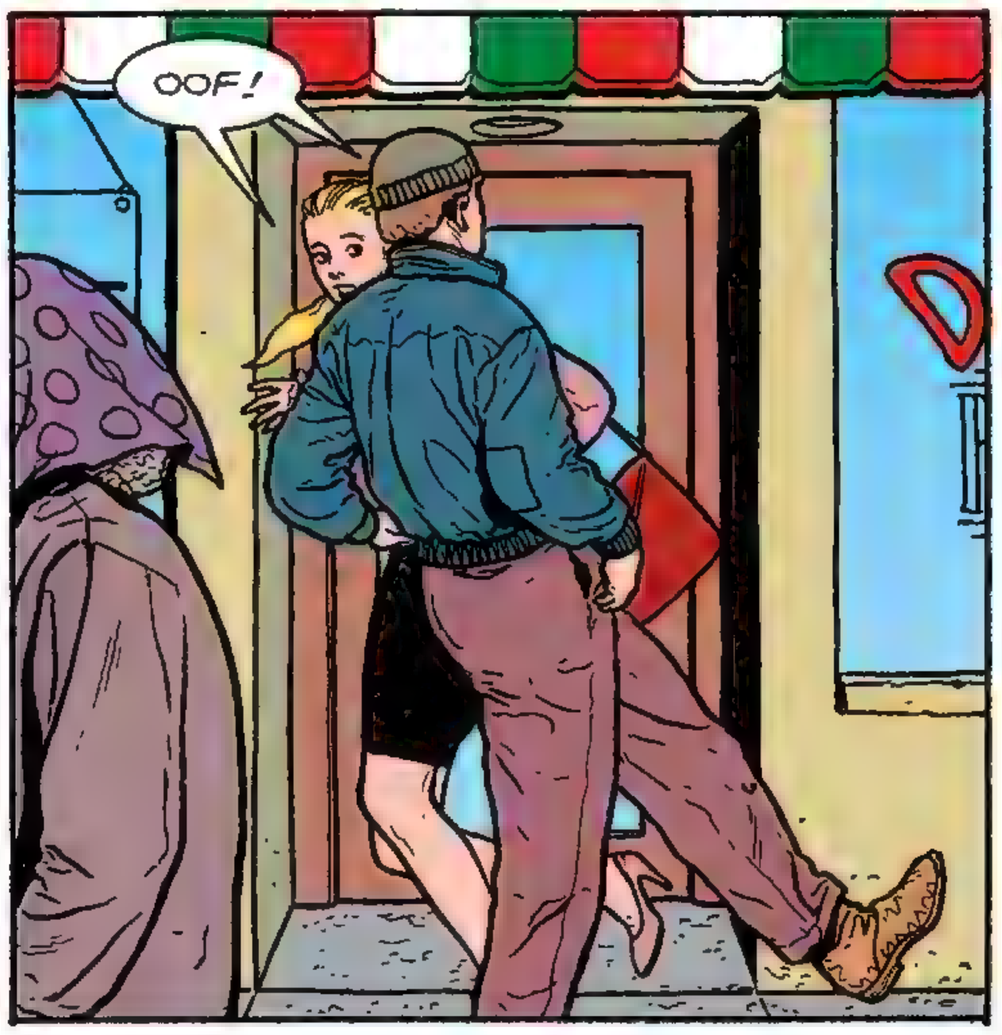
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT. IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.

SPLAT!

GEE, WALTER, I HOPE THIS DOESN'T MEAN YOU WON'T TAKE THE JOB.


CHEGR. A'LL — GUNS AT THE DOOR
PASTRY
I WONDER IF ANYTHING IS STILL HAPPENING HERE.
AFTER ALL... I... KILLED ONLY A FEW OF THOSE CRONIES.
US MAIL


THEN AGAIN, NONE OF THEM SEEMED BRIGHT ENOUGH TO DO ANYTHING WITHOUT CONSTANT SUPERVISION.


OOF!

OH, I'M DREADFULLY SORRY. IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
WHATEVER. FORGET IT, OKAY?

HUH. WHY DOES THAT GUY LOOK SO FAMILIAR?

SHREEEE

POLICE NOT WELCOME

THE D

CHECK ALL GUNS AT THE DOOR

WHAT THE HELL?!

SPECIAL DELIVERY FOR "BIG-HEAD"!!

POOM

KEESH

THE DON IS IN-OUT

CHECK ALL GUNS AT THE DOOR

DE NUCCIS PASTRY

HOBNI SHOE'S REPAIR

BOOOOM!

MY GOD! I'VE GOT TO DO SOME-THING.

I'VE GOT TO.

OOOHHHHHH...

ALL RIGHT! YOU WIN!

YOU KNOW, I WAS SUPPOSED TO SHOOT TWO ROCKETS INTO THAT PLACE.

DON'T WORRY, PAL. I THINK WE GOT "BIG-HEAD'S" ATTENTION.

RATATATATATATATAT

RAT-A-TAT-TAT

CRAASH

RIP92

RCCPB

OHHHHH

AAH, MY ARM-- AAAIIIEEE!

SHUT UP!

GET THIS STRAIGHT, SCUMBAG!

THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE STILL ALIVE IS BECAUSE YOU'RE TAKING ME TO WHO-EVER IT IS YOU WORK FOR.

RIGHT?!

UH-HUH.

SO FAR, SO GOOD.

I'M IN TOTAL CONTROL.

NOW IF I COULD JUST FIGURE OUT WHERE THIS GUN CAME FROM.

YOU REMEMBER THAT TIME WE BUSTED ROLLO IN THE TRAIN STATION JOHN?

HE WAS IN THE STALL, AND YOU SHOUTED: "DON'T MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVES, ROLLO! JUST COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!"

HA-- AND THEN ROLLO COMES *HA HA*-- COMES OUT, WITH HIS PANTS *HA HA*-- HIS PANTS--

AW, JEEZUS, WHAT AM I DOING!? YOU CAN'T HEAR ME.

I MUST BE GOING *NUTS!*

NOT AT ALL.

HUH?

IT'S VERY THERAPEUTIC TO TALK TO PATIENTS IN A COMA, HELPS THEM RECOVER.

IS HE A FRIEND?

302

PARTNER. WE WERE ON THE FORCE TO-GETHER.

RIGHT, KELLAWAY. HE WAS IN THE PAPERS ALOT WHEN THE "BIG-HEAD" KILLINGS STARTED.

YEAH, WE WORKED THAT CASE TOGETHER. HE REALLY HATED THAT S.O.B.

HE'D PROBABLY FLIP IF HE KNEW "BIG-HEAD" WAS BACK AGAIN.

HAVE YOU TOLD HIM?

HMMMM. WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW "THERAPEUTIC" IT'D BE, BUT HEARING ABOUT "BIG-HEAD" JUST MIGHT GET A RISE OUTTA HIM.

SAY, YOU WOULDN'T, MAYBE, WANT TO GRAB A CUP OF COFFEE WITH ME?

YOU'RE SURE YOUR FRIEND WON'T MIND?

I THINK HE'LL UNDERSTAND.

302

MIDNIGHT, DOWN ON THE DOCKS.

WHERE ELSE?

I DON'T LIKE THIS. IT'S GETTING AWFULLY LATE.

HEY, YOU HEAR THAT?

YEAH, IT'S COMING FROM THE ROOF.

KEESH!

EDDY!

WHUMMP!!

KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KI

K KLIK KLIK KLIK

EDDY WAS VERY COOPERATIVE.

HE BROUGHT ME RIGHT TO YOU--

--EXACTLY AS I TOLD HIM TO.

THEN WHY DID YOU KILL HIM?

BECAUSE HE DID EXACTLY AS YOU TOLD HIM TO--FIRST.

HEY, DIDN'T "BIG-HEAD" USED TO BE A GUY?!

WHO CARES? I DON'T CARE, I REALLY DON'T.

JUST PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE--DON'T HURT ME.

DON'T YOU WANT US TO SHOOT HER?

DON'T LISTEN TO THEM. THEY WON'T HURT YOU.

I CAN GIVE YOU MONEY. IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

SO THIS IS THE GREAT DON CESARE MOZZO.

COWARD! IT'S ALMOST NOT WORTH KILLING YOU.

ALMOST.

BOOOM!

WHONK

I DON'T FRIGGIN' BELIEVE IT.

WALTER KILLED "BIG-HEAD"!!

NOT MUCH OF A PARTY, I'M AFRAID, BUT IT'S THE BEST I COULD DO ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.

IT'LL DO, LIONEL.

ONLY, CAN'T YOU GET ME SOME VODKA FOR THIS?

WHAT, ARE YOU KIDDING ME? YOU JUST CAME OUTTA YOUR COMA THIS MORNING.

HAPPY TIME ORANGE JUICE

YOU KNOW, MR. KELLAWAY, LIONEL HAS TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT YOU--

AND "BIG-HEAD."

WANDA!

HAH! I BET HE HAS, BUT LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE, OKAY?

RIGHT NOW, THE LAST THING ON MY MIND IS "BIG-HEAD."

Uhhh...hhhhh

UHHHH'M ALIVE...

NOW I REMEMBER. THE MASK PROTECTS YOU.
NO WONDER I FORGOT. I COULD FIT A BOWLING BALL IN THAT HOLE.

BUT I'M OKAY NOW.
AS LONG AS I'M WEARING THIS MASK, NOTHING CAN HURT ME.

WHOA!*

PAL, I HOPE THAT'S ALL THE AMMO YOU HAVE IN THAT GUN--

--'CAUSE I'M PRETTY SURE THIS IS ALL THE BLOOD I HAVE IN THIS BODY.

WHUNK!

OOF.

ALL RIGHT. THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU BASTARD!

EAT THIS!

BOOM BOOM

SAY, WHERE THE HELL DID THIS COME FROM?

WHU NK!

HEY, WALTER, C'MON.

FORGET HER. LET'S GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE.

YEAH, FORGET ME, WALTER. I'M NO GOOD FOR YOU.

I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS.

I'VE GOT TO END IT!

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT. WON'T BE WOUNDED. STAN WASN'T, WHY SHOULD I BE?

I JUST HAVE TO DO IT QUICKLY. JUST ONE QUICK MOTION.

NOW!

WHEW!

YAAAAAAA!

WHAT AM I SCREAMING FOR? HE CAN'T RECOGNIZE ME LIKE THIS.

SAY, IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A LADY WITH A GREEN FACE, SHE RAN OFF THAT WAY.

WOW! THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.

I WAS INSANE TO THINK I COULD CONTROL THIS THING.

I'VE BEEN FIGHTING IT SO HARD, TRYING TO KEEP IT FROM CONTROLLING ME, THAT I'VE BECOME A MURDEROUS ANIMAL.

THERE'S JUST NO WAY TO WIN WITH THIS THING.

IT'S GOT TO GO, NO MATTER WHO MIGHT FIND IT.

IT'S GOT TO GO.

BUMP

OH, CRAP.

LADY WITH THE GREEN FACE?

THAT WAY.

...REMEMBER?

GEEZUS, THIS GUY'S LIKE A BAD PENNY!

A VERY BIG, VERY NASTY, BAD PENNY.

OKAY, SO I HAVE NO CHOICE.

BUT JUST THIS LAST TIME.

HOLD IT, BUDDY!

YOU WANT ME, YOU GOT ME.

BUT THIS TIME WE'LL DO IT MY WAY.

JUST HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.

NO BOARDS, NO GUNS, NO WEAPONS AT ALL.

EEYAH!

YUH!

HIIIII!

WA! YI! MAA! KI! POW! BAM! ZAP!

HUH-HUH- HAD ENUFF!

SMASH!

ON SECOND THOUGHT...

BRRRRAAAAPPPP

...LET'S GO BACK TO USING WEAPONS!

GEEZ, WALTER AIN'T GETTING NOWHERE WITH "BIG-HEAD."

IF "BIG-HEAD" WINS, WE'RE IN "BIG-TROUBLE," BOSS.

YEAH, BUT FORTUNATELY, I KNOW A FEW HUNDRED GUYS WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP US.

I REALLY GOTTA BE GOING, LIEUTENANT.

ANYWAY, IT'S LATE. *YOU* SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP.

GET SOME SLEEP?! HELL, I'VE BEEN IN A COMA FOR DAYS. LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS SLEEP.

UHHH, EXCUSE ME, DETECTIVE LIONEL? URGENT NEWS.

BE RIGHT THERE.

URGENT, HUH? SOUNDS TO ME LIKE--

"BIG-HEAD," DOWN BY THE DOCKS.

I KNEW IT.

WHAT MAKES THE CAPTAIN SO SURE IT'S "BIG-HEAD"?

WELL, APPARENTLY *SHE'S* HAVING A FIRE-FIGHT--

HOLD ON. *SHE?*

SHE!?!

"BIG-HEAD" IS A *SHE?*

THAT'S THE WAY THE ANONYMOUS CALLER DE-SCRIBED HER, ACCORDING TO THE CAP-TAIN.

WHAT ELSE DID THIS ANONYMOUS CALLER SAY?

APPARENTLY SHE'S SHOOTING IT OUT DOWN ON PIER #7, WITH SOME GOON.

AND THE GUY ALSO SAID SHE'S BEEN HIT WITH A FEW SHOTGUN BLASTS, AND KEEPS COM-ING.

SURE SOUNDS LIKE "BIG-HEAD."

OKAY, YOU HEAD DOWN TO THE CAR AND ALERT ALL AVAILABLE UNITS. I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN.

LOOKS LIKE I GOT A HELL OF A NIGHT AHEAD OF ME, LIEUTENANT.

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, I WOULDN'T MIND TRADING PLACES WITH--

--YOU.

WOW! THESE E.R. DOUBLE SHIFTS ARE HELL.

IF I'D KNOWN I WOULD HAVE TO SEW UP THIS MANY GUNSHOT WOUNDS TO GET THROUGH MY RESIDENCY, I WOULD HAVE GONE INTO RESEARCH INSTEAD.

YES, BUT THEN WE NEVER WOULD HAVE MET, AND THAT--

OH MY GOD!!

HONK HONK

LOOK OUT!

KATHY, IF THAT'S YOU WEARING THAT MASK, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF.

CRASH!

RATATATATAT

WARNING FLAMMABLE

WARNING FLAMMABLE

WARNING FLAMMABLE

YOU ARE REALLY BEGINNING TO PISS ME OFF.

HYUH!

SAYONARA, "SCARFACE!"

RATATATATA

WARNING

CLICK

PONK PONK PONK

BOOM!

YOU KNOW. A COUPLA MINUTES AGO. THAT PROBABLY WOULDA JANGLED MY NERVES A TAD.

BUT NOT ANYMORE, NO SIR.

MATTER OF FACT, I KINDA LIKED IT!

WHHHOOSH

WOO HOO! WOO HOO! WOO HOO!

WHHOOOSH

I'M GOING CRAZY, BOYS-- DON'T STOP ME!

WHA-- WHAT AM I SAYING?

GOOD LORD, THIS IS NEVER GOING TO END.

I'M NOT... I WON'T GO CRAZY.

THUNK

OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE--

MOTHER

--WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO DIE?

OUTSIDE, WHERE IT'S SAFE.

LOOK, THE PLACE IS ON FIRE. MAYBE WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING.

AND GET OUR ASSES SHOT OFF? NO THANKS.

JUST WAIT TILL A FEW MORE UNITS GET HERE. LET ONE OF THEM PLAY HERO.

POLICE

BETTER KEEP OUR EYES OPEN. RADIO SAYS SOME NUT DRIVING A CAR MIGHT BE HEADING OUR WAY.

THAT'S *ALL* THEY SAID? THEY DIDN'T MENTION WHAT THE CAR LOOKED LIKE?

HONK

HONK

HONK

IT PROBABLY LOOKS A LOT LIKE THAT ONE.

YAAAAAAAAA!

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!! LEGGO!!

I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT. STAN, LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY, AND THAT LITTLE HOOD-LUM WANTED IT TOO.

EVERYBODY WHO KNOWS ABOUT IT WANTS IT.

EVERYBODY EXCEPT ME.

I'M SICK TO DEATH OF IT.

CLACK CLACK

BESIDES, I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU ANY MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU AL-READY ARE.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

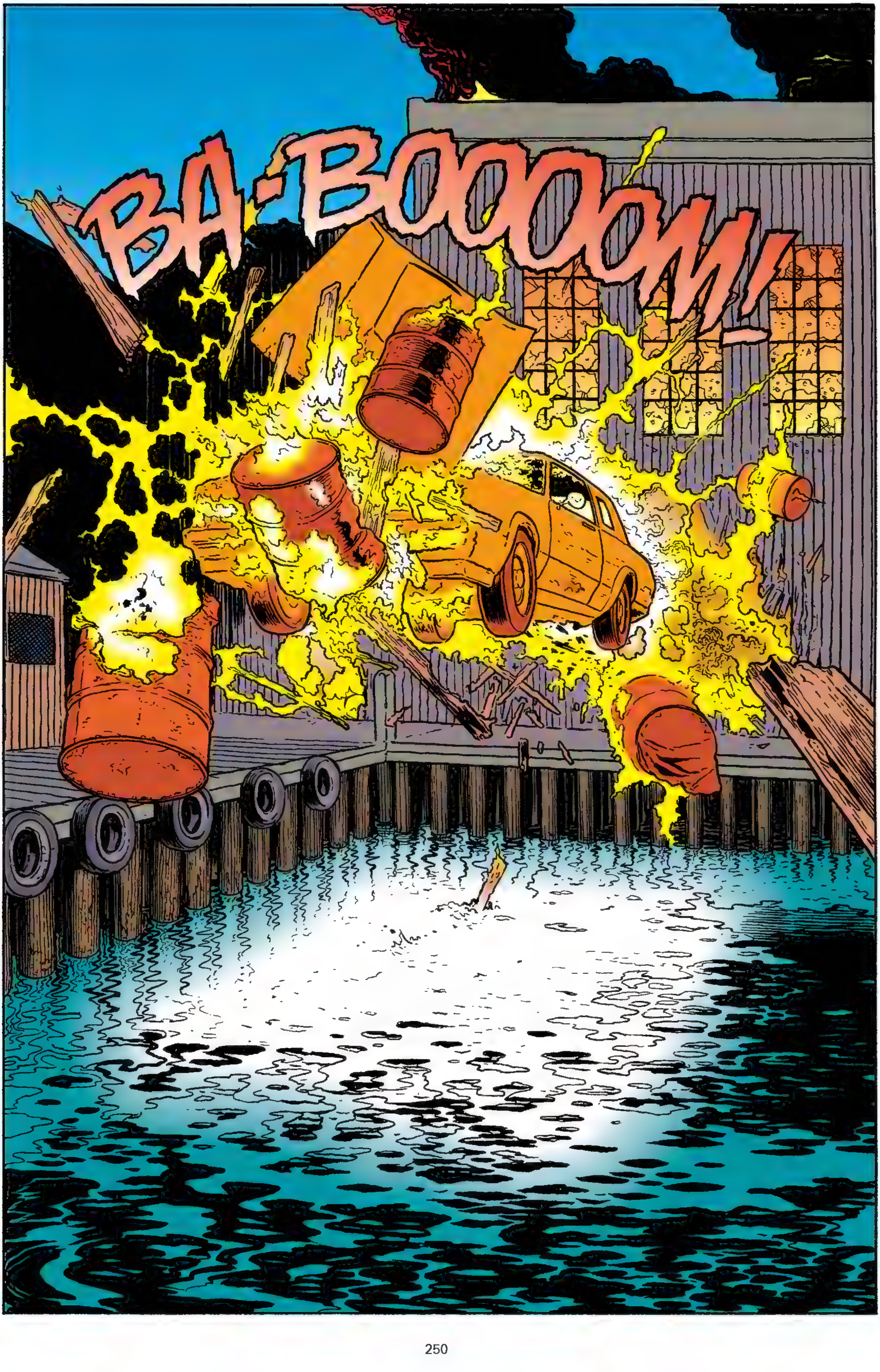
TAKE IT! TAKE IT! TAKE IT!

KRASSH!

KATHY! RUN!!

KRUNCH!!

WARNING FLAMMABLE


BA-BOOM!

SOONER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.

BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ME?

I DON'T KNOW. I JUST DID.

YOU BASTARD! I COULD KILL YOU!

LOOK, LIONEL, I'M SORRY ABOUT STEAL-ING YOUR CAR, BUT I HAD TO.

THAT AIN'T WHAT I'M MAD ABOUT! YOU'RE NOT EVEN A COP ANY-MORE, AND YOU'RE STILL SHOWING ME UP.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT THE BOYS ARE TELLING ME. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FINALLY KILL-ED "BIG-HEAD"!

YEAH, WELL, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH --

DMJA1

"--NEITHER CAN I."

THE MASK STRIKES BACK

DM 94
KW

script
JOHN ARCUDI

pencils
DOUG MAHNKE

inks
KEITH WILLIAMS and RICH PERROTTA

colors
GREGORY WRIGHT

lettering
LOIS BUHALIS

title illustration
DOUG MAHNKE

I MEAN, I'M EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD.

I CAN FREAKIN' *VOTE*-- IF I WANT TO.

THAT'S RIGHT, SNACKY. YOU'RE A *MAN* NOW.

SOON AS I FIND ME A PLACE, OUT I MOVE. I *MEAN* IT.

A JOB MIGHT COME IN HANDY THERE.

YOU KNOW, BEN, I GET THAT *CRAP* AT HOME.

DON'T NEED IT FROM *YOU*.

C'MON, I CAN TAKE YA', I CAN TAKE YA'!

SOMEDAY, YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY YOUR GAMES WITH THE WRONG GUY.

ICE IT, HUGO. YOU TWO ARE GIVING ME A HEADACHE.

YOU TELL HIM, SNACKY.

I'M TELLING YOU--TOO.

AND WHAT'S WITH THIS "SNACKY" STUFF? WHERE AND WHY DID YOU PICK IT UP?

GOSH-- IF I'D KNOWN IT WAS GONNA BOTHER YOU THIS MUCH--

--I'D HAVE STARTED DOING IT WEEKS AGO.

SNACKY.

KIDS!

HEY, YOU GONNA DROP BY ARCHIE'S LATER, RIGHT?

WHERE'S HE HEADING?

"WHERE DO YOU THINK?"

POLICE-POLICE

"MAN, HE'S NOT STILL GOING DOWN *THERE*, IS HE?"

"OH, YES. THE PLACE IS LIKE *MECCA* TO HIM."

"HEY, *BIG-HEAD* WAS A KICK AND ALL--

--BUT RICK'S, LIKE, *OBSESSED* WITH HIM.

"I MEAN, WHAT DOES HE THINK HE'S GONNA *FIND* DOWN THERE?"

SSSSSSS

NOTHING.

"HASN'T IT BEEN MORE THAN A MONTH SINCE BIG-HEAD *BOUGHT* IT?

NO BODY, NO REMAINS, NO CLOTHES.

NOTHING.

HOW DO WE KNOW BIG-HEAD IS REALLY *DEAD?*

MIGHT JUST BE ANOTHER *LIE,* FED TO US BY THE STATE.

THEY'D DO *ANYTHING* TO MAINTAIN THEIR ORDER, WOULDN'T THEY?

I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S DEAD. I *CAN'T!*

I WON'T!

CHIG CHIG CHIG

CHUNK

?

MAN, THIS IS *GREAT*. THIS IS WHERE I BELONG.

AND I'M JUST ITCHING TO DRIVE.

DON'T I KNOW IT.

WHAT SAY WE WAIL THAT *SIREN*?

THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT *THESE* ALONG.

WHAT'S THAT?

CLICK CLACK

THE .45 SLUGS THEY PULLED OUT OF YOUR BACK NOT EIGHT WEEKS AGO.

IN OTHER WORDS, *SLOW DOWN.*

"ANYWAY, WE'RE ALMOST AT THE HOSPITAL."

DOCTOR GLUD? I'M ***KELLAWAY*** AND THIS IS DETECTIVE ***LIONEL***. YOU CALLED US?

YES, OF COURSE. ***HE'S*** ON THE FIFTH FLOOR, IN THE BURN WARD.

...HAVE TO CHECK THE RECORDS, BUT I THINK HE SHOWED UP ABOUT A ***MONTH*** AGO.

VERY BADLY BURNED. A BIG MAN. ***ENORMOUS,*** ACTUALLY. JUST AS DESCRIBED IN THE POLICE BULLETIN.

RIGHT IN HE--

OH, MY GAWD!!

A SHEET-ROPE? MAN, THIS GUY WATCHES TOO MANY ABBOTT AND COSTELLO MOVIES.

AND HE MUST EAT A LOT OF ***POPCORN*** IF HE'S TOO HEAVY TO EVEN USE IT.

BUT... BUT...

THAT'S A FORTY-FOOT DROP.

WHERE ***IS*** HE?

CAN YOU NAME THE SEVEN DWARFS?

Star Tribune
BIG-HEAD KILLER FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE?

LET'S SEE. THERE'S SKANKY, RUMMY, LOUSY, FUNKY... uhh...

EXIT

SNACKY.

Star Tribune
BIG-HEAD KILLER
FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE?

THE BIGHEADZ

HOW ARE YOU TODAY, LITTLE LARVA?

SHUT UP. Uhhh, SPAZZY, WOEFUL, AND LOP.

Ahh, I'M BORED.

HEADING OVER TO JACK-IN-THE-SNACK. YOU GUYS *WANT* ANYTHING?

A BURGER WOULD BE NICE.

SOME OF THOSE CHICKEN THINGS, IF THEY STILL GOT 'EM.

AND I'LL HAVE A DOUBLE-BACON LIMBURGER...

...SOME OUCHY FRIES--

--AND A LARGE ORDER OF JACK-THE-RIPPER JELLO.

DON'T THOSE SILLY FOOD NAMES MAKE EATING SO MUCH MORE FUN?

ALL RIGHT NOW, OFF WITH YOU, LAD!

AND DON'T SPARE THE HORSES.

SLAM!!

DOODAH DOODAH DAY!

COMICS!

MONSTERS OUT OF CONTROL!

DO YOU HAVE LAST YEAR'S "OOZY THE SNAIL SUMMER SPECIAL" WHERE HE MEETS LIZI THE AUTO?

I JUST LOVE THAT ONE.

HUGO, ARCHIE, IT'S, IT'S--

EY'T -BIG- HEAD!

WHERE, WHERE?!

NO, YOU. *YOU'RE* BIG-HEAD.

YOU LOOK LIKE THE PICTURES, AND YOU'RE ACTING LIKE THE REPORTERS SAY HE ACTED. YOU *GOTTA* BE HIM.

DON'T YA...?

WELLLL, YES.

AND NO.

CHECK IT OUT, IT'S JUST *RICK*. COOL GET-UP.

GEEZ, THAT THING SURE LOOKS A LOT DIFFERENT *OFF* YOUR FACE.

VERY AMUSING. ONLY HOW ON EARTH DID YOU MAKE YOUR *VOICE* SOUND LIKE THAT?

NO, NO. IT WASN'T A GAG, IT AIN'T A GET-UP!!

I REALLY *WAS* BIG-HEAD!

uh-huh. SURE THING, SNACKY.

I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S THIS *MASK*.

WHEN I PUT IT ON, IT *TRANSFORMS* ME.

I'M LIKE A LIVING WEAPON OF REBELLION. I *AM* BIG-HEAD.

RICK, YOU'VE BEEN DWELLING ON THIS BIG-HEAD TOO LONG, DUDE.

DRESSING UP IS OKAY FOR KIDS, BUT I'M *WORRIED* ABOUT YOU, PAL.

YOU KNOW, I MUST CONFESS MY BAFFLEMENT AS TO HOW YOU MADE YOUR VOICE SOUND SO "UNEARTHLY."

AND THOSE TEETH WERE AS BIG AS *BASE-BALL CARDS*.

HERE, I'LL SHOW YOU--*I'LL* SHOW YOU!

A MACE. BITCHIN'!

OBSOLVE.

WHERE DID *THAT* COME FROM?

HEH HEH ehh

eeeee-AHOOOOO...

KRANGG!

AND & COLE HAAN
SPORTCOATS · OUTERWEAR
LARGEST SIZES PLUS
· RAINCOATS · TOPCOATS
REED · PERRY ELLIS
BUNYANS BIG AND TAL
VASILIS SMOKE INC
CIGARS AND CIGARETTES
PIPES AND TOBACCO BLENDS
VASILIS
ALL SPORTS COATS 20% OFF
FASCINATING STUFF, BUT THERE ARE OTHER THINGS HAPPENING TONIGHT.
THAT'S ALL. JUST THE TRENCH COAT AND ONE BOX OF LICENCIADOS.
OKAY, THANKS A LOT.
LOOKS LIKE OUR BOY, ALL RIGHT.
137
WELL, I CAN SEE WHY A GUY WEARING NOTHING BUT BANDAGES AND A HOSPITAL GOWN WOULD WANT THE OVERCOAT...
...BUT WHY STEAL A BOX OF CIGARS?
HEY, THOSE ARE NOT CHEAP SMOKES.
Ahh, THERE'S THE HUMOR I'VE MISSED SO.
SORRY, LIONEL. IT JUST FEELS SO GOOD TO BE BACK.
THOSE FEW MONTHS AWAY FROM THE FORCE SEEMED LIKE FOREVER.
BUT NOW THAT I'M BACK, IT'S LIKE NO TIME AT ALL HAS GONE BY.
THANK GOD THE CAPTAIN REINSTATED ME.
YOU KNOW, YOU NEVER DID TURN IN THAT RESIGNATION HE ASKED YOU FOR.
HELL, YOU COULD PROBABLY SUE FOR BACK PAY.

HO, NO. FROM NOW ON, I'M GONNA BE A *GOOD* BOY. THE DEPARTMENT WON'T HEAR A *PEEP* OUT OF ME.

NOW LET'S GO FIND *WALTER*. I WANT TO WRAP UP THIS BIG-HEAD CASE ONCE AND FOR ALL.

IF THIS IS WALTER.

A GUY THE SIZE OF A RHINOCEROS COVERED WITH BURNS? I'D SAY IT'S WALTER.

THE THING IS, IF I ACCEPT THAT WALTER LIVED THROUGH THAT BIG FIRE BY THE PIER--

--THEN WHAT'S TO STOP ME FROM BELIEVING *BIG-HEAD'S* STILL ALIVE?

BIG

1137

HE'S *NOT*, IS HE? ALIVE, I MEAN.

BIG-HEAD *IS* DEAD, RIGHT?

LIEUTENANT...?

VANS BIG

1137

DON'T WORRY, LIONEL.

OLD PUNKINHEAD IS *STONE COLD*.

GOOD LORD, I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING.

OKAY. YOU KNOW THE PROCEDURE, CORRECT?

LET'S JUST *DO* IT, MAN!

HUH?!

GAH

LEGGO OF HIM, YOU MANIAC! LEGGO!!

POP

HAW HAW

Sweet MotherMcCree, YOU SHOULDA SEEN YOUR FACES.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I'M QUITE CERTAIN THAT I HEARD NO PULSE.

OOOOH, YEAH. THANKS FOR REMINDING ME.

THUMP THUMP

THUMP THUMP

THUMP THUMP

Gulp!

SOMETHING TERRIBLY ODD IS GOING ON HERE.

IT'S TRUE! GLASSES DO MAKE YOU SMART.

MAN, I THINK HE *IS* BIG-HEAD, FOR REAL.

HE'S SOMETHING, I KNOW THAT.

AND YOU SAY THE MASK ALONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS?

YOWZAH.

HE'S *MY* FRIEND!

GIMME!

JUST LET ME SEE IT A SEC.

BACK!! BACK!!

C'MON, RICK. I TOOK THE HEAT FOR YOU WHEN YOU PULLED THAT FALSE ALARM. THEY WOULD HAVE THROWN YOU OUT OF SCHOOL.

HOWEVER, WITHOUT MY HELP IN MATH AND HISTORY, YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE GRADUATED.

Uhh, WELL, I MOWED THE *LAWN* FOR YOU ONCE, DIDN'T I?

YOU EGG-SUCKERS KILL ME.

I DIDN'T COME OVER HERE TO PASS THE MASK AROUND LIKE A COPY OF PLAYBOY.

I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU KIDS THAT BIG-HEAD is BACK!

AND HE'S GONNA STICK IT TO THE MAN!

"THE MAN"? RICK, WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?

LOVE TO EXPLAIN, ARCHIE, BUT--

(UH, COULD YOU STEP ASIDE?)

--BUT I GOT THINGS TO DO.

EXIT

IRR

AUTHORITIES TO DEFY...

GOVERN-MENTS TO TOPPLE...

HOUSES TO EGG!

GIDDYAP!!

WOW! WHEN DID RICK LEARN TO *DRIVE*?

MEANWHILE, IN A REALLY BAD NEIGHBORHOOD...

THIS IS RIDICULOUS.

BIG HEAD RULES

WAITING HERE FOR MY "RIDE" TO MOISHE VERTER'S PLACE LIKE SOME KINDA *NOVICE*.

I SWEAR, IF THEY BRING A BLINDFOLD, I'LL SHOOT 'EM ALL *DEAD*.

NO FUN

IGGY POP

AND IF ANYBODY GIVES ME A HARD TIME ABOUT HOW I LOST MY LAST JOB WITH MOZZO, THEY'D BETTER WATCH OUT.

BORIS STOIKA DON'T TAKE CRAP FROM NOBODY.

NOBODY!

YOW!

HHHHHH...

HHHHHHHH...

H-HEY, WALTER.

MAN, THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR *THREE DAYS* NOW. RICK'S JUST GOING TO TOWN.

YEA, HEH, HEH, COOL... EHHEHEHEH UM, AH, MM. UH LIKE THIS COMIC LIKE RULES!! IT KICKS BUTT! HEH HEH HEH

Star Tribune

BIG-HEAD COPYCAT... OR REAL THING?

By RYDER WINDHAM
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

BIG HEAD GUNTER

BIG-HEAD TRANSLATES INTO BIG BUCKS FOR OREGON MAN

By SCOTT ROLFS

INDEED HE IS. IT'S BOTHERSOME, BUT RICK IS NOW OUTSIDE OUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.

WE COULD GO TO THE POLICE--HEY, WHAT IS SO FASCINATING ABOUT THAT STUPID *WORM*, ANYWAYS?

ANNA BOULBOULA

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IN DUE TIME, BEN.

YOU MEAN, "WHEN I GET OLDER?"

NO. WHEN THE "WORM" GETS OLDER.

AND *WHAT*, EXACTLY, DO YOU PROPOSE WE TELL THE POLICE--THAT OUR FRIEND HAS A MAGIC *MASK*? PLEASE.

IN ANY CASE, I SUSPECT HE'S ACTING NO MORE IRRESPONSIBLY THAN ONE OF *US* MIGHT IF HE HAD THE MASK.

WHAT, ARE YOU *KIDDING*? I'D BECOME A *ROCK STAR* IF I HAD THAT THING. MASTER OF THE STAGE!

Hmm. INTERESTING POINT. PERHAPS THE MASK OPERATES ON AN EXISTING PERSONALITY DYNAMIC.

Huh?

WELL, DOES THE MASK PROJECT A *CHAOTIC PERSONA* ON ITS WEARER?

OR WAS THIS *MADMAN* ALWAYS INSIDE RICK, AND THE MASK HAS ALLOWED IT TO EMERGE FULL-BLOWN?

HUHN! THAT'S LIKE ASKING "WHO LAID THE EGG FIRST, THE CHICKEN OR--"

Uhh, NO... WAIT.

I *WARNED* YOU ABOUT SMOKING THAT STUFF, HUGO.

YOU KNOW I QUIT THAT LAST YEAR.

Ahh. BUT THE *DAMAGE* HAS BEEN DONE.

AND...

YEAH, I GOT HIM CUFFED.

POLICE

HE LOOKS LIKE THE REAL THING TO ME.

POLICE

POLICE

WHAT'S THAT?

NO, NOT A ZOOT SUIT.

CITY POLICE

BUT HIS *HEAD'S* THE SIZE OF A *PUMPKIN!*

OKAY, MAYBE NOT *THAT* BIG--

BUT I'M TELLING YOU...

TWONG TWONG TWONG

NOW CUT THAT OUT!!

BUT...

I ASK YOU, IS THAT A *SUIT*, OR IS THAT A SUIT?

I'LL BET *MOZZO* NEVER BOUGHT YOU ANYTHING LIKE THAT, *eh*? AND THERE'RE PLENTY *MORE* WHERE THAT CAME FROM.

WHEN DO I GET *MY* SUIT?

PLEASE, BORIS. NOT NOW. I'M BUSY.

IT ISN'T TOO *TIGHT*, IS IT, WALTER?

HEY! DON'T ACT LIKE I'M EIGHT YEARS OLD!

I BROUGHT WALTER TO YOU, Mr. VERTER. IF YOU'RE NOT NICE, I MIGHT JUST TAKE HIM AWAY.

A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS "BIG-HEAD" CASE.

YOU NO MORE BROUGHT WALTER TO ME THAN THE ROOSTER RISES THE SUN, YOU FOOL.

TOUCH ME AGAIN, AND I'LL STOP TOLERATING YOU.

POLICE SOURCES SAY THAT A SUSPECT MATCHING THE "BIG-HEAD" KILLER'S DESCRIPTION HAS BEEN ARRESTED.

OKAY, IF YOU THINK WALTER AND ME AIN'T PALS, I'LL SHOW YOU.

THE SUSPECT IS REPORTEDLY DOWN IN CENTRAL BOOKING AT THIS HOUR.

HEY, WALTER! Mr. VERTER HERE IS DISRESPECTING US. LET'S AM-SCRAY.

?!

WAIT! COME BACK!
WELL, WE SHOWED HIM, DIDN'T WE, BIG GUY?
POONT!
KEESH!
He, uhh...
HE WANTS TO BE BY HIMSELF FOR A WHILE.

SO...

WOW! HOW'D YOU SNAG "BIG-HEAD" WHEN THE WHOLE FORCE COULDN'T?

THE QUESTION IS, "WHY DID I?"

STOP STRUGGLING, YOU LOON!

LET'S SEE HOW THESE PRINTS TURNED OUT...

S. MURPHY

POLICE

CITY POLICE

Huh?

HOW THE HECK...?

IS BIG-HEAD REALLY GETTING PROCESSED IN THERE?

PROCESSING

YEAH, BUT DON'T GO IN. STRICTLY OFF-LIMITS.

OH, I JUST WANT A PEEK.

SMACK!

ZZZOOOOOO!!

WHA' HAPPEN?

YOU SEE WHERE HE WENT?

INTO THE LOUNGE AREA.

SLOW DOWN, FLATFOOTS. YOU SEE *Me* RUNNING?

HOLD IT RIGHT ***THERE***, PAL. WE'RE ON THE THIRD FLOOR, AND YOU HAVEN'T GOT A *CHANCE* OF ESCAPE.

HEY, WHY IS *SMOKE* COMING FROM YOUR POCKET?

WELL, *LET'S* CHECK THAT **OUT**, *Shell we* ?

NO SUDDEN MOVES, PAL.

I SHOULD SAY **NOT**. NOT WHILE MY *HAND'S* IN MY POCKET.

Hello, WHAT'S THIS...?

Mmmm, hmmm. RIGHT.

YAAAAAAAAAAAA
BABOOM
THIS IS THE LIFE!!
...W...WE SHOULD ALL BE DEAD.
I THINK THIS IS SUFFICIENT HUMILIATION, DON'T YOU?

BUS

Bumpity Bump Bump, Bumpity Bump Bump, Lookit that Frosty GO!

Bumpity Bump-- Eh?

HEY THERE, SKIP. THAT'S A Swell TIE.

HOOMPH

HOWEVER...

RAARR!

EACH CANINE IS FASHIONED FROM THREE AND A HALF THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF SOLID GOLD.

PLINK PLOINK PLUNK

FOURTEEN GRAND IN THAT CAT'S MOUTH, AND I CAN'T GET $250 FOR A GIG WITH MY BAND.

I NEED THAT MASK, MAN.

THE ONLY THING YOU NEED IS A FEW YEARS OF GUITAR LESSONS.

WATCH IT, SNACKY!

PLEASE STOP USING THAT INANE NICKNAME. NOW BE QUIET AND LET ME WATCH THIS.

TURN THE CHANNEL, TURN THE CHANNEL!

FURTHERMORE...

THANKS FOR MEETING ME, KATHY. OTHER THAN LIONEL, I'D SAY *YOU'RE* ABOUT THE ONLY PERSON I CAN REALLY TALK TO.

AND LIONEL NEVER WORE THE MASK, SO YOU CAN'T TALK TO HIM ABOUT *THAT*, RIGHT?

OKAY, YOU GOT ME. IT'S JUST THAT, IN SPITE OF WHAT IT *DID* TO ME, I MISS IT SO MUCH. DON'T YOU... EVER?

NOPE. I QUIT SMOKING, TOO. DON'T MISS *THAT*, EITHER. *YOU*, HOWEVER, STILL SMOKE.

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, LT. KELLAWAY, I'M HAPPY IT'S ALL *OVER*.

WELL, FOR THE *POLICE*, THERE ARE *LOOSE ENDS* THAT YET NEED TYING.

AND NO MORE LAST NAMES. CALL ME--

HEY! WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH THIS PICTURE?

SHOULDN'T THIS GUY'S SKIN BE GREEN?

AND WHERE'RE THE *BOLTS* IN HIS NECK?

NEWS 6, LIVE FROM POLICE PLAZA--

WALTER!

NEVERTHELESS...

C'MON, YA BIG MUSH.

GIVE IT YER BEST SHOT, YER BEST SHOT!

Hah!

WHAM!

BOP! HOW'S THAT FEEL, BABY?

UHH, DON'T YOU EVEN WANT AN ASPIRIN?

SMASH!

SWIF!

THIS GUY'S--

--KILLING ME.

KRAASH!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

RICK'S GETTING HIS BUTT KICKED.

KNOWING WHAT THAT MASK CAN DO, THIS LULL WON'T LAST.

C'MON, FOLKS, LET US THROUGH.

Y'KNOW, ARCHIE, IT'D BE A LOT EASIER TO PUSH THROUGH IF WE'D BROUGHT BEN.

OH, NO! I DON'T WANT THAT DELUDED CRETIN ANYWHERE *NEAR* THE MASK.

I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO GET TOO CLOSE TO THAT *MASK* AGAIN.

THEN MAYBE YOU BETTER GO, KATHY. ME, I'M A COP--

IT'S BETTER THAT HE STAY AT HOME.

--AND THIS IS *STILL* POLICE BUSINESS.

GOLD'S GYM

YOU THINK THAT BOTHERED ME, SUH?

CLEAHLY, THEN, YOU'VE NEVUH DEALT WITH A SOUTHERNUH BEFO.'

YOU'VE INSULTED ME, SUH. I DON'T TAKE SUCH THINGS LIGHTLY, I DO DECLARE.

NOR DOES MAH REGIMENT.

CHAHGE!!!

RRUMMBLLE

WHAT'S THAT?

LET'S SEE YA SHAKE **THAT** OFF, YOU **HIDEOUS FREAK!**

NOBODY BETTER #@%!&!!@ WITH **ME!**

I'LL **KILL** ANYBODY THAT DOES!

MR. BIG-HEAD, SIR?

J-J-JUST WANTED YOUR-- AUTOGRAPH... SIR...

DIDN'T YOU JUST HEAR WHAT I SAID, **PUNK?**

DON'T YOU SEE THIS HERE **SWORD?**

WAAAAA

HOLD ON. THAT AIN'T RIGHT.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

GOTTA SPLIT-- NOW!

RICK!!

NO!!

SPLOIP!

RICK?

CONSEQUENTLY...

WHAT KINDA CRAP IS THAT, LEAVING ME HERE?

"SOMEONE'S GOTTA STAY HERE." YEAH, *BULL!* THEY DON'T *TRUST* ME.

SO I WANT THE *MASK*. SO WHAT? LEAST I ADMIT IT.

Hmmm, MAYBE I SHOULD LAY OFF THE CHERRY SODAS FOR A WHILE.

PTOIE!

YAAA!

SPLOOSH

TOO MUCH, I'M TELLING YOU. TOO MUCH.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

PLOOSH

THE *MASK*. IT'S TOO MUCH.

I CAN'T THINK WHILE I'M WEARING IT.

AND THIS NEEDS SOME *SERIOUS* THINKING, LEMME TELL YA'.

SHOULD'A *THOUGHT* ABOUT IT BEFORE I PUT THE THING ON IN THE FIRST PLACE.

"DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS GETTING INTO."

MURRYS

GREG VESS BAR & GRILL

HELLS KILRYS

DM 94
KW 3

SOME KINDA HAS-BEEN WASHED-UP **BUM**, THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. *Sure*, WHO *WOULDN'T*?

URP!!

BUT PEOPLE USED TO **PAY** TO SEE ME. THE **Big Buck$** THEY PAID, YOU BETTER **BELIEVE** IT, BOOBY.

HEY, **SIT BACK DOWN!!**

I GOT A SAD FRIGGIN' **STORY** TO TELL, AND YOU'RE GONNA ***LISTEN!*** AND DON'T LET ME SEE YOU YAWN EVEN **ONCE**, HEAR ME?

SHOULDA THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE I PUT THE THING ON. DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS GETTING INTO.

WHICH IS WHAT I HAVE OVER YOU. I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT NOTHING *BUT* THIS MASK EVER SINCE YOU FOUND IT.

YEAH, I WAS *BIG*, BUT IT AIN'T LIKE I GOT THAT WAY OVERNIGHT.

WELL, ACTUALLY... IT'S A *LOT* LIKE THAT.

YOU WERE ALL OVER THE PLACE. TO FULFILL DREAMS, A GUY'S GOT TO HAVE FOCUS.

NO, BEN, WAIT!

NO, RICK, YOU WAIT.

FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF SPIN.

'CAUSE I'LL BE ON THE COVER, SNACKY!

QUICHE!

AND THAT WAS THE ANCHOR-HOISTER. A STAR ON THE RISE.

A SHAME MY CHUMS, *ARCHIE* AND *HUGO*, WEREN'T THERE TO SEE IT. STUCK SOMEWHERE'S **ELSE**, THEY WERE.

OKAY, HOW'BOUT WE GET BACK TO THE ORIGINAL QUESTION?

WHY WERE YOU CALLING OUT TO *BIG-HEAD* AS IF HE WERE YOUR FRIEND, AND WHY DID YOU CALL HIM "RICK"?

OKAY, HUGO, IT'S ALL UP TO *YOU*. ARE YOU GOING TO SIT HERE LIKE YOUR PAL AND KEEP A "VOW OF SILENCE"?

OR ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHAT IT TAKES TO KEEP YOU--*BOTH* OF YOU--OUT OF TROUBLE?

JAIL, EVEN THE HOLDING CENTER, WOULD BE *ROUGH* ON A KID LIKE YOU.

REALLY-- REALLY-- *ROUGH!*

UH, *EXCUSE* ME, DETECTIVE KELLAWAY, SIR, BUT, AHEM, THAT'S A BIT *MUCH*, ISN'T IT?

WHAT I MEAN, SIR, IS THAT WE'VE BEEN HERE ALL NIGHT, AND..*uhhh*-- *REALLY*... WELL, COULD WE TALK TO A *LAWYER*?

LAWYER? ONLY *CROOKS* NEED LAWYERS, SON.

NOW YOU SEE, THAT BRINGS ME TO *ANOTHER* POINT.

UNLESS SOME CHARGES ARE IN THE OFFING,... WELL, I DON'T WANT TO SEEM FORCEFUL...

OKAY, "ESQUIRE," *BEAT* IT! WE'LL BE IN TOUCH.

Uhhh, ARCH, I'M, LIKE, *CONFUSED*.

THERE IS LITTLE I CAN DO THAT WILL EVER CHANGE THAT. RIGHT NOW, LET ME SET MY MIND TO MORE *PRESSING* CONCERNS.

SUCH AS... WHERE'S *RICK*?

HOW DID IT GO?

SEE THIS FACE? *THAT'S* HOW IT WENT.

LATER. I'VE GOTTA PUT IN A REQUEST FOR A TAIL ON THAT *ARCHIE* KID.

IT'S STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN. I THINK MAYBE IT'S TIME THE POLICE KNEW ABOUT THE *MASK*.

KATHY, THAT'S *CRAZY*. ALL WE NEED IS ONE LEAK TO THE PRESS AND EVERY NUT IN THE CITY WOULD BE AFTER THAT THING.

Oh, SO YOU'RE TRYING TO AVOID A CITYWIDE *PANIC*, IS THAT IT?

OR ARE YOU JUST AFRAID OF THE *COMPETITION*?

BUT THIS TEAR-JERKER AIN'T ABOUT MY FRIENDS, IS IT?

KAMIKAZE KLUB

KLUB

KAMIKAZE

HONEY, WHOEVER TOLD YOU THAT YOU COULD SING...?

...BECAUSE I WOULD JUST LIKE TO BEAT THAT PERSON INTO OBLIVION.

WHO'S NEXT ON THE LIST?

SCREW THAT LIST.

THE SPEED METAL MESSIAH JUST WALKED IN.

AND HE CAN JUST MARCH RIGHT BACK *OUT*, SUGAR. NO AUDITIONS--!

SHUT THE *YAP*, HAPPY PANTS, OR I'LL *TIE* IT SHUT WITH YOUR SMALL INTESTINE.

NOW, DO I *PLAY*, OR DO I GET *Ugly?*

HOOLSTOCK FESTIVAL

WELL, IF YOU PUT IT *THAT WAY*...

SMART **MOVE**, Holly-wood, **SMART MOVE.**

SEE, I HAD A PLAN. NO GOOF-BALL SHOWBOATIN' ANTICS FOR **ME**, HO, NO.

JUST A ONE-WAY EXPRESS ~~**BULLET TRAIN**~~ TO **DOUBLE-PLATINUM CITY.**

SO I GOT RIGHT TO IT, AND I WANNA **TELL** YA, I BLEW THE DUST OFF THEIR BRAINS. I SET THEIR **LIVERS** ALL A'QUIVER.

HELL, I PEELED THEIR FREAKING **EARS** OFF THEIR HEADS, **THAT'S** WHAT I DID.

OKAY, MAYBE THEY DIDN'T HOLD UP LIGHTERS, OR YELL REQUESTS FOR "FREEBIRD," BUT THEY ***DID*** SAY--

CAN YOU START TONIGHT?

H-HOW THE...? WE DON'T EVEN *HAVE* A SMOKE MACHINE...

NOW I'M NOT SAYING I'M THE CENTER OF THE **UNIVERSE**, HO, NO.

RRRRRR

IN FACT, AT THAT MOMENT, THE HUGE HAND OF FATE WAS POKING **OTHER** PIECES AROUND THE COCKAMAMIE GAME BOARD OF LIFE.

RAAR

HAVING A LITTLE *FUN*, eh, BIG GUY?

Y'KNOW, CHIEF, Mr. VERTER, HE'S PRETTY RAW OVER YOU *DITCHING* HIM YESTERDAY. Oh YEAH, KICKING AND SNORTING.

"Mr. VEE," I SAYS, "EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE EVERYTHING. JUST LEMME *JAW* WITH THE MAN." SO-- HERE I IS!

LION GOT YOU PISSED, WALTER? ME, TOO.

IMAGINE, WASTING SOLID GOLD CAPS ON A BRUTE LIKE THAT?

SHUT UP, DEKE.

SEE, Mr. VEE FIGURES, HE BUYS YOU A $2,000 SUIT, THAT MEANS YOU *OWE* HIM. AND AFTER ALL, IT *IS* AN AWFULLY NICE TENT.

NOW HOLD ON, WALTER. I WAS JUST KIDD--

--EEEEENG!

WHOMP

OOOF!

BANG BANG BANG

AAA!

SOME OF THOSE PIECES ARE DANGED **BIG**, TOO. NEARLY AS BIG AS THE HAND OF FATE ITSELF.

WHILE OTHER PIECES, HECK, I DON'T EVEN *KNOW* HOW THEY GOT ON THE BOARD.

THE *NERVE* OF VERTER, THROWING ME OUT ON MY EAR. AND WALTER, BATTING ME AROUND LIKE A TOY. *RRRRRR!*

GEEZ. PEOPLE LIVING IN THE STREET, AND THE CITY SHELLS OUT $14,000 FOR SOME LION'S SOLID GOLD BRIDGEWORK. *DISGUSTFUL!*

Star Tribune
Say Cheese

HEY, YOU *LISTENING* TO ME?

NO, BORIS, I'M NOT. AND SHOULD YOU CARE TO CALL ME ABOUT ANYTHING BUT A *REAL* JOB AGAIN, THINK TWICE ON IT.

I GOT NO INTEREST IN YOUR PROBLEMS. THAT'S WHAT *BARTENDERS* ARE FOR.

BUT WE *ARE* GONNA PULL A JOB, A BIG ONE.

Star Tribune
Say Chee$e

I JUST GOTTA FIGURE OUT WHAT IT'S GONNA BE.

HEY, DID YOU JUST SAY SOMETHING ABOUT A *LION?*

ANYHOO...

BUT IF WE'RE NOT REALLY IN TROUBLE, HOW COME IT TOOK ALL DAY TO GET YOUR CAR OUTTA THE POLICE GARAGE?

HUGO, *PLEASE*. MY FORBEARANCE HAS BEEN SUFFICIENTLY TESTED FOR ONE DAY.

RICK!!

WHERE THE HELL'VE YOU TWO *BEEN*?!

ARCH, WE--

I DIDN'T--

IT COULD RAIN ON MY *COMICS*, MY *BOOKS*!

OH, THE *PUPAL* STAGE IS CRITICAL FOR MY MONARCH. IF YOU'VE *DISTURBED* IT--!

I THINK I'M GOING TO HAVE AN ASTHMA ATTACK.

JUDAS PRIEST, WHAT'VE YOU DONE TO MY APARTMENT?!!

SCREW THAT BUG!!

BEN HAS THE MASK NOW!!

BEN? I DON'T... HOW--?

I CAME BACK HERE TO DUMP IT. IT WAS FREAKING ME OUT. I COULDN'T TAKE ANY MORE.

BUT BEN SNAGGED IT, AND HE'S TOTALLY BUGGED, TOO.

TONIGHT AT THE KAMIKAZE KLUB

JIMEE HARROW

Ooooh, WHAT NOW?

WELL, I TRIED TO FOLLOW HIM WHEN HE SPLIT, AND THAT WAS A BUST.

BUT ON THE WAY BACK TO THE APARTMENT--

--I PULLED THIS OFF A TELEPHONE POLE.

OUR BOYS ARE ON THE MOVE, AND THERE'S A THIRD GUY WITH 'EM.

MUST BE THE ONE WHO *SPEAKS* NO EVIL. OKAY, LIONEL, LET'S STAY WITH THEM.

WHICH WILL LEAD US BACK TO...

...DO-RE-ME!

KAMIKAZE KLUB

I CHANGED MY MIND. I WANT 40% OF THE DOOR.

NO, MAKE IT 45%.

WITH THE MONEY YOU'RE SAVING US ON A STAGE CREW, YOU CAN *HAVE IT!*

NOW YOU GET OUT THERE AND WAIL ON THAT AX!

Ladies and Gentlemen, BOYS AND GIRLS, PEOPLES AND PUPPETS, I GOT TO LAY SOME GROUND RULES HERE.

Rule#1: I WORK MY *MAGIC*.

Rule#2: YOU LOVE IT.

NO EXCEPTIONS.

OH, YEAH, I *ALMOST FORGOT* THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE--

You're just too Good to be true, Can't take my Eyes off of you.

HUH?!? THIS AIN'T RIGHT!

--RULE #3: TRY TO CONTROL YOURSELVES.

You'd be like Heaven to touch, I wanna hold you So much.

I DON'T KNOW, LIONEL. MAYBE THESE KIDS ARE JUST OUT ON THE TOWN.

KAMIKAZE KLUB

HEY, LOOK WHAT THE HAND OF FATE IS UP TO NOW.

JIMEE TYDOX

Uhh, LIEUTENANT...

"NO, NO, REALLY. *USED* TO BE, I COULD SMELL A BAD GUY A MILE AWAY."

JIMEE TYDOX

"*NOW*, I DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT SURE I CAN TELL THE WOLVES FROM THE SHEEP ANY-MORE."

KAMIKAZE KLUB

LIEUTENANT, *THAT* IS MOST DEFINITELY A WOLF!

YEAH THAT'S *ME*, FOLKS. OL' STICKY EYES.

Thank you, BUT NO NEED FOR GIFTS.

YOU'LL **SUCK!!**

TELL ME ABOUT IT, BUT I'VE GOT NO CONTROL! IT'S LIKE *I'M* JUST A CAR AND THE *MASK* IS THE DRIVER.

CONTINUING MY TRIBUTE TO THE *Suavest of the Suave,* I'LL AMAZE YOU WITH ONE OF HIS **EARLY** HITS.

LET ME THROUGH! I'VE GOT TO GET IN THERE!

SAVE YER MONEY, DUDE. THE MUSIC CHEWS IT.

♪ BIG GIRLS DO-ON'T-- ♪

SKRAIIEEE!!

JUST LIKE THAT, I SNAPPED OUT OF MY WEIRDO LOUNGE LIZARD TRANCE...

HEY THERE, HANDSOME. WHAT'S WITH THE SWORDS?

THEY... DON'T CRY...

POP

POP

CHAIN SAW RUN OUTTA GAS?

BA-THROOM!

...AND CAME DOWN WITH A WICKED CASE OF BULL-GOOSE LOONY FEVER.

BEN, THIS IS RICK! YOU'RE LOSING IT, DUDE! TIME TO BAIL!

BACK OFF, PEE-WEE. I CAME HERE TO PLAY THIS GUITAR--

--AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA DO!

TIMBERRR!!!

SNAP!

MOM WAS RIGHT. I SHOULD'VE TAKEN UP THE **PIANO** INSTEAD.

KRUNCH

No, THIS SPEAKER WON'T GO WITH *any* OF MY TIES.

VOLUME

IT'S JUST A BIT...

...TOO LOUD.

VOLUME 7 10 11

TESTING!

RHUMBA!

HADN'T WE BETTER GO?

I THINK I'VE SUFFERED ENOUGH FOR MY *Art.*

I *SEE* YOU, YOU LYING BASTARDS, I FRIGGING SEE YOU!

HOW DID THE POLICE GET HERE SO FAST?

HEEEE

YOU NANCIES WORRY TOO MUCH, YOU KNOW THAT? WE'LL JUST TAKE THE BACK WAY.

BUT THIS PLACE DOESN'T *HAVE* A BACK WAY.

NO. ONLY AN EXIT.

OOSH

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN? FIVE? FIVE AND A HALF?

ACTUALLY, IT WAS ONLY TWENTY MINUTES AGO.

STILL PLENTY OF TIME TO MULL OVER WHAT WENT DOWN.

TIME ENOUGH FOR ME TO SCOPE WHAT I GUESS YOU KNEW ALL ALONG.

THIS ONLY MAKES NIGHTMARES COME TRUE.

BEN!! MAN, WE COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH YOU.

HEY, DON'T PUT THAT THING BACK ON, OKAY? ARCHIE WANTS TO TALK TO YA.

Umm, WERE YOU TALKING TO SOMEBODY BACK THERE? 'CAUSE, LIKE, I DIDN'T SEE NOBODY.

YEAH, WELL, THE MASK MAKES YOU DO SOME CRAZY THINGS.

$(CH_3)_2 NNH_2 + 2N_2O_4 \rightarrow 3N_2 + 4H_2O + 2CO_2$

The world of man is not this planet, or even the things he has built upon it. The world of man is the human consciousness, and is therefore infinite.

...AND THAT'S FOR NARCING ME OUT TO THE PRINCIPAL JUNIOR YEAR.

KICK!

Hmmm...

REALLY, BEN. AFTER SEEING HOW CRAZY THAT *MASK* MADE ME, YOU THINK YOU WOULD A *LEARNED* SOMETHING.

HEY, YOU WERE *ALREADY* NUTS, SNACKY. HOW WAS *I* SUPPOSED TO KNOW THE MASK HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT?

WELL, NOW WE *ALL* KNOW, AND I SHOULD HOPE WE CAN TRANSLATE THAT KNOWLEDGE INTO A CONCERTED EFFORT TO *DISPOSE* OF THE EVIL TOTEM.

NOW THAT I'M HOME--- HUH?!

ARCHIE, BUDDY!

DIDN'T THINK DITCHING YOUR CAR AT THE NIGHTCLUB WOULD *LOSE* ME, DID YOU?

DETECTIVE KELLAWAY...!

OH, MAN, THE *COPS!*

ARCHIE DOESN'T WANT 'EM TO SEE *THIS!* WHUDOO I DO?

ALL RIGHT, C'MON! YOU, ME, AND YOUR PALS ARE GONNA CHEW THE FAT WHILE MY MEN SEARCH YOUR PLACE.

HEY, WHERE'S YOUR SIDEKICK, *HUGO?*

Uhhh...

AH. I CAN CATCH UP WITH HIM LATER.

HE'S TOO STUPID TO GET VERY FAR ON HIS OWN.

HOO, YEAH. I'M THE STUPID ONE, FLATFOOT.

ONLY IT'S ME IN THE CONTROL BOOTH NOW, CHUMP, NOT YOU.

I'VE GOT THE MASK. I'VE GOT THE POWER TO DO-- TO BE-- IT ALL.

WOW

AND I GOTTA SAY, THINGS SURE LOOK DIFFERENT FROM THE TOP OF THE HEAP.

THUNK

HAMMERHEAD NAILS SHARP

THUNK

HOW MANY IS THAT?

YOU THINK I'M COUNTING?

THUNK

OICH! WE GOTTA SAY SOMETHING TO HIM, JEFF. WE JUST GOTTA.

MOUSE MASHER

YOU MEAN I HAVE TO, DON'T YOU, Mr. SPUG?

EXCU-- EXCUSE ME, S-SIR..?

HEH-HEH. HI.

SORRY TO B-BOTHER YOU, SIR, BUT YOU SEE, THE OWNER...

I MEAN, I DON'T CARE IF YOU WANNA-- Y'KNOW...

BUT SEE, THE *OWNER* THINKS...

...HE FIGURES SOMEBODY'S GOTTA P-PAY FOR THOSE NAILS.

I'M JUST DOING MY JOB!!

Huh...?

PLUM

DETECTIVE KELLAWAY, WHAT *IS* IT, EXACTLY, THAT YOUR WARRANT ENTITLES YOU TO SEARCH FOR?

Oh, LOTS OF THINGS. AS A POTENTIAL SUSPECT IN THE "BIG-HEAD" CASE, YOU MIGHT HAVE STOLEN PROPERTY, ILLEGAL GUNS, AXES--

--MAYBE A *MASK*.

...MASK...?

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU LITTLE BRANIAC, I KNOW ABOUT THE MASK.

AND YOU'LL BE GETTING YOURSELF IN *DEEPER* IF YOU DON'T HAND IT OVER RIGHT NOW.

BACK OFF, YOU FASCIST FREAK. IF YOU HAD AN ARREST WARRANT, WE'D BE DOWNTOWN.

BUT WHAT YOU GOT IS A SEARCH WARRANT, AND I'M BETTING IT DON'T SAY NOTHING 'BOUT NO *MASK* ON IT.

WHAT RICK'S TRYING TO SAY IS THAT WE ARE PUZZLED BY THIS MENTION OF A MASK--

RICK?

HEY!

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! CAN'T YOU BE MORE *CAREFUL*?

BIGHEAD

Uhh, SORRY.

RICK. THAT'S WHAT ARCHIE CALLED "BIG-HEAD" THE OTHER NIGHT.

HE MUST'VE BEEN THE ONE WEARING THE MASK. MAYBE HE STILL *IS*.

LIEUTENANT, THIS IS A BUST. THE ONLY ILLEGAL THING IN THE PLACE IS THIS PIRATED "HEAVY METAL" VIDEO.

YEAH, I REMEMBER. THE MASK CAN DISGUISE YOU AS ANYBODY. EVEN YOURSELF.

TAKE IT OFF!! TAKE IT OFF!!

LIEUTENANT!!

WHAT THE HELL'S THE *MATTER* WITH YOU, LIEUTENANT?

I *KNOW* WHAT'S GOING ON HERE. DON'T THINK I DON'T KNOW!!

DIDN'T GET TOO FAR, **DID** I? JUST ALL THE WAY Home, THAT'S **ALL.**

AND IN TIME FOR **LUNCH,** TOO.

CAN'T GO IN LOOKING LIKE **THIS.**

BUT THAT AIN'T NO **THANG** FOR THE MAN WHO'S WEARING THE **MASK.**

NOT HARDLY.

I THOUGHT IT'D MAKE ME DO **ZANY THINGS** LIKE BEN AND RICK, BUT IT AIN'T.

Still, THINGS DO SEEM A LITTLE...

...off.

HUGO! YOU FINALLY CAME HOME!

WE WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU, STAYING OUT ALL NIGHT LIKE THAT.

BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO FIGHT. NOT NOW.

M-MOM?

ARNOLD, LOOK AT THIS.

WE'RE ALL HOME FOR LUNCH. WHEN IS THE LAST TIME THAT HAPPENED?

HNF!

BOY, THESE EGGS ARE GREAT.

WELL, I'LL BE SURE TO TELL MOTHER YOU SAID THAT.

HUGO, DO YOU WANT ANY MORE JUICE?

HUGO? MORE JUICE?

GAAAA!

OH, HUGO.

KID'S A FREAK.

LOOK! LOOK AT MY APARTMENT!

YOU REALIZE THAT ALL OF THIS IS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THAT VEXATIOUS MASK.

YEAH, WELL, THE *KEYSTONES* FOUND NOTHING THAT WAS ON THEIR WARRANT. THEY'LL LAY OFF FOR A WHILE.

WHY DON'T WE TELL THE POLICE WHAT'S WHAT? I MEAN, THEY SEEM TO KNOW ABOUT THE MASK ALREADY.

YOU *IDIOT.* IF WE COP TO WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON, WE'RE LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT YOU AND I DID WHEN WE WORE THE *MASK.*

MAYBE THEY'D EVEN TRY TO PIN THE OTHER "BIGHEAD" CRIMES ON US, AND WHAT JURY WOULDN'T *BELIEVE* THEM?

BUT THAT GUY KELLAWAY--

WAS THE *ONLY* ONE WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A MASK.

THE REST OF 'EM THOUGHT HE WAS *WIGGY.* THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT "BIGHEAD" REALLY IS. NOT YET.

THAT BUYS US SOME TIME TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET RID OF THE MASK.

EXIT

GET *RID* OF IT? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE IT IS.

GAAAA!!

GETITOFF GETITOFF GETITOFF!

UH... GET WHAT OFF?

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU GUYS CAN'T SEE IT. NOBODY CAN.

OKAY, CALM DOWN, OKAY, OKAY, OKAY.

NNNNGGH!!

HERE, TAKE IT! IT'S FREAKING ME OUT!

WHOA-HO, I DIDN'T KNOW IT COULD DO THAT!

LEMME TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT IT!

WHU--? GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!

YOU TWO ARE ACTING LIKE A COUPLE OF JUNKIES.

ARCHIE, YOU TAKE IT.

YOU KNEW IT WAS BAD FROM THE START. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE OF US WITH ANY SENSE.

RIGHT AGAIN. ARCHIE'S GOT IT ON AN EVEN KEEL. HE SHOULD HAVE THE MASK.

OKAY, BUDDY. IT'S UP TO YOU. WE'RE IN A WORLD OF DOOKIE, AND YOU GOTTA GET US OUT.

GO AHEAD. YOU GONNA SMASH IT? BURN IT? DIP IT IN ACID? TELL ME. I CAN TAKE IT.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THE MASK?

FIGHT CRIME!

WHAAA...?

SKULL IT OVER, Pinky. WE GOT THE ABILITY TO TRANSMOGRIFICATE "BIG-HEAD" FROM PUBLIC ENEMY INTO A SUPERHERO.

IN NO TIME, THE MAYOR'LL BE BEGGING TO HAVE HIS PICTURE TAKEN WITH US.

ARCHIE, YOU DON'T GET IT. THAT MASK, IT MAKES YOU SEE THE WORLD IN A WAY THAT'S NOT NORMAL.

THAT'S WHERE You MUGS COME IN. YOU'LL KEEP ME FOCUSED. GUIDE ME. WE'LL BE A Team.

LIKE THE AVENGING JUSTICE FORCE...

TEAM?

I THINK IT SOUNDS GREAT.

ON MY SIGNAL...

GRAB 'IM!

PAH! YOU FEEBS ARE SHACKLING MY BUZZ.

WHERE'D HE GO?

TEN HOURS LATER, THEY ARE STILL ASKING THAT QUESTION.

BUT THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM.

THIS IS GOOFY, BORIS. WHY IN SAINT PETER'S NAME YOU GOTTA INVOLVE ME IN THIS, I DON'T KNOW.

HOW'M I GONNA SHOOT *ANYTHING* WITH THIS BUM HAND? YOU'RE THE LINCHPIN IN THIS OPERATION, BUD...

...AND IT COULDN'T BE AN EASIER HAUL.

THE LION IN THAT CAGE HAS FOURTEEN LARGE IN GOLD BRIDGE-WORK. FOURTEEN G S.

WITH *THAT* HIGH-POWER BABY, YOU CAN NAIL HIM FROM HERE. WON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HIT HIM.

THEN JUST LEAVE THE REST TO ME.

YOUGH! DON'T TELL ME ANY MORE. YOU KNOW HOW *QUEASY* BLOOD MAKES ME.

BETTER TO DO THESE THINGS FROM A DIST--

Eh?

WHAT GIVES?

POINK

BOY, THESE THINGS NEVER STOP BEING **FUN**, DO THEY?

HOLD ON... I KNOW THAT GUY. I KNOW HIM!

YOU!!! YOU'RE GONNA **RUIN** EVERY-THING!!

Perzactly MY INTENTION, YOU NINNY.

DONNGG-GG!

SUPERHERO MANUAL

IT'S MY DUTY TO *sniff out* PERFIDY-- EVEN OVER THE STENCH OF ELEPHANT MANURE--

--AND SQUASH IT!!

=Huff= HOO-BOY! =Gasp= Wheeze... =Puff=

HERE. MAYBE THESE'LL HELP.

=Gasp= BACK OFF, MISTER. THIS AIN'T NO TOY, AND I'M NOT AFRAID TO USE IT.

BOO!

BANG!

Missed me, Missed me!

HOW COULD I HAVE MISSED?

DRIP

SEE FOR YOURSELF.

EWWWW

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE THE WUSSY.

Heh-heh. LOOKS LIKE I CAN GIVE WITH THE VIGILANTITUDE PRETTY SNAZZILY ON MY OWN.

STILL, A TEAM WOULD KEEP ME COMPANY ON LONELY NIGHT EXCURSIONS, LIKE THIS'N.

EU- FREAKING- REKA!

Beautiful Beautiful--

Bee-ay-ootiful!

THIS IS **IT**, MEMBERS OF THE MAMMALIAN ORDER!

FOLLOW ME IN THE **FIGHT** FOR ***GOODNESS!***

LET'S GO, GO, GO--

--GO, GO...

...GO...

NO, NO. NO AVIFAUNA ON MY TEAM.

HEY! WHY, IF ANY OF YOU CRAP ON MY COSTUME...

WHERE THE PIZOOZA DID YOU HARPIES COME FROM, ANYHOO?

YIPE.

WHAK!

NO MORE FOR ME, THANKS...

...I'M DRIVING.

SPLICH

FRIEND, IF AT'S THE BEST YOU CAN DO...

...I'D SAY IT'S PRETTY DARN GOOD.

4 CHARLIE 13, LET ME RECONFIRM YOUR POSITION. ARE YOU STILL AT MELROY AND HURNACE AVENUE?

AFFIRMATIVE.

AND YET YOU'RE TELLING ME TO DISPATCH UNITS TO THE ZOO, WHICH IS ALMOST FIVE MILES FROM THAT INTERSECTION.

JUST WHAT MAKES YOU THINK ANYTHING'S HAPPENING THERE?

Ohhh--

--CALL IT A HUNCH.

HEY, GUYS, SOMETHING'S HAPPENING WITH THIS WORM POUCH THING.

LOOK, BEN, WE GOT ARCHIE'S CAR BACK. WE'RE *MOBILE* NOW. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE FIND HIM.

RICK, ARCHIE COULD BE ANYWHERE IN THIS CITY-- *ANY-WHERE!* AND WE HAVEN'T GOT ONE SOLID LEAD YET.

EEEEEEEEE

GNU-5

BUT...BUT I WANNA WATCH THE *WORM*. WHY DO *I* HAVE TO GO, ANYWAY?

CALLED 6463

DON'T BE AN IDIOT, HUGO. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WITH A *LICENSE*.

"AW, GEEZ, JUST WHEN THINGS WERE GETTING *INTERESTING*."

ALL RIGHT, YOU AMBULATING Keloid, YOU TERATISM IN A Tailored Suit, THE BELL JUST RANG AND Playtime's OVER.

NOW WE'RE GONNA SEPARATE THE MEN FROM THE BOYS, THE Wheat FROM THE Chaff, THE FRUITS FROM THE VEGETABLES.

WE'LL SEE WHO'S MADE OF WHAT AND HOW MUCH. YEAH, YEAH, We'll SEE.

BASH!

AAIIEEE!!

YOU HEAR THAT?

YEAH. OVER THERE, THROUGH THE BUSHES.

JUMPIN' CATFISH!

GEEZ, ONE OF THESE GUYS MUST A' LET THE ANIMALS OUT OF THE CAGES...

...BUT WHICH ONE?

Uhhh, THE UGLY ONE...?

THEY'RE *BOTH* PRETTY UGLY.

HEY, YOU'RE NO Brad Pitt YOURSELF, *Buddy!!*

Oh, MAN--IT'S THAT *PSYCHO*, THE "BIG-HEAD" KILLER.

%!!#@! WHY DID I PUT IN FOR OVER-TIME *TONIGHT?!*

HEY! *HEY!* WHAT ARE YOU, *COWARDS?* YOU *KNOW* WHAT WE HAVE TO DO--

SMACK BIFF HIT WHAP BASH STOMP YOW! SLAP POKE SLASH OOF CHOP

--CALL THE S.W.A.T. TEAM.

POLICE H.Q.

LT KELLAWAY

KELLAWAY, YOU CREEP! NO MORE OF YOUR CRAP! IT'S NOW OR NEVER!

StarTribune
BIG-HEAD WRECKS NIGHTCLUB

WHOA, WHO LET *YOU* IN HERE THIS LATE?

HEY, ARE YOU *LISTENING* TO ME?

OKAY, OKAY. HOLD ON A SEC.

SAY, LIONEL, DO YOU *MIND*...?

YOU KNOW SOMETHING? I DO MIND.

I *MIND* THAT EVERY TIME *KATHY* HERE SHOWS UP, YOU TWO START PASSING SECRET MESSAGES.

I *MIND* THAT SHE ACTS LIKE SHE KNOWS MORE ABOUT THIS BIG-HEAD CASE THAN I DO.

AND I *MIND* THAT LATELY YOU'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE A NUT--*CRAZY*--BUT YOU WON'T TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG.

LIKE MAYBE YOU DON'T *TRUST* ME. WHICH IS WHAT I *MIND* MOST OF ALL.

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE HIS *MIND'S* MADE UP, KELLAWAY.

Click

YEE-HAW!

GIT ALONG, LITTLE STOGIE!

KA-RUNCH!

WHAT'RE THEY DOING *NOW*?

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK?

MAYBE WE SHOULD GO IN THERE AND HELP *HIM* BEAT THE TERMINATOR?

WHAT?! *WE'RE* GOING TO HELP *HIM* BEAT THE TERMINATOR?

PLEASE!

OOH!

JUST GONNA HAVE TO **FACE** IT, OL' PAINT. TH' **COWBOY'S** DAYS ARE **NUMBERED.**

THE AERONAUTICAL ERA HAS ARRIVED--

--CONTACT!!

AND NOT A NANO-MOMENT TOO SOON.

SAY "HI" TO POPEYE FOR ME, BLUTO!

ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET HIM IN THE CAR.

Ahem!

I DON'T THINK THAT'S YOUR MONKEY.

DANKER, REMIND ME TO BRING A HELI-COPTER ON OUR NEXT "BIG-HEAD" CALL.

IN THE MEANTIME, CUFF *KING KONG* HERE AND READ HIM HIS RIGHTS.

Errr, CAPTAIN...?

THAT'S THE REAL DEAL.

INSANE, I KNOW--

LIEUTENANT, I'VE SEEN A GREEN-FACED MAN WHO CAN PULL AXES OUT OF HIS POCKETS, DANCE AWAY FROM A HUNDRED GUNSHOT WOUNDS, AND DISAPPEAR LIKE BLACKSTONE'S RABBIT.

"INSANE" DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO ME ANYMORE.

THEN YOU DON'T THINK I'M *NUTS*?

HELL, NO! YOUR STORY IS THE ONLY THING THAT'S MADE ANY *SENSE* IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

WHICH DOESN'T MEAN I'M REAL HAPPY ABOUT YOU KEEPING THIS TO *YOURSELF* FOR SO DAMN LONG.

NOW, DON'T YOU FEEL A LOT BETTER?

YOU WERE *RIGHT*, KATHY. I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T TRUST *LIONEL* WITH THIS *MONTHS* AGO.

RRRIIING!

WELL, THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.

HOLD ON! THIS IS A *BREAK-THROUGH* FOR A PARANOID LIKE ME. LET ME REVEL IN IT FOR A WHILE.

DON'T BE OPENING ANY BOTTLES OF CHAMPAGNE JUST YET.

SOMETHING'S GOING DOWN.

DIDJA HAPPEN TO SEE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD?

HEY!

AND IF YOU DID, WUZ SHE CRYYYING?

CRY-YING?

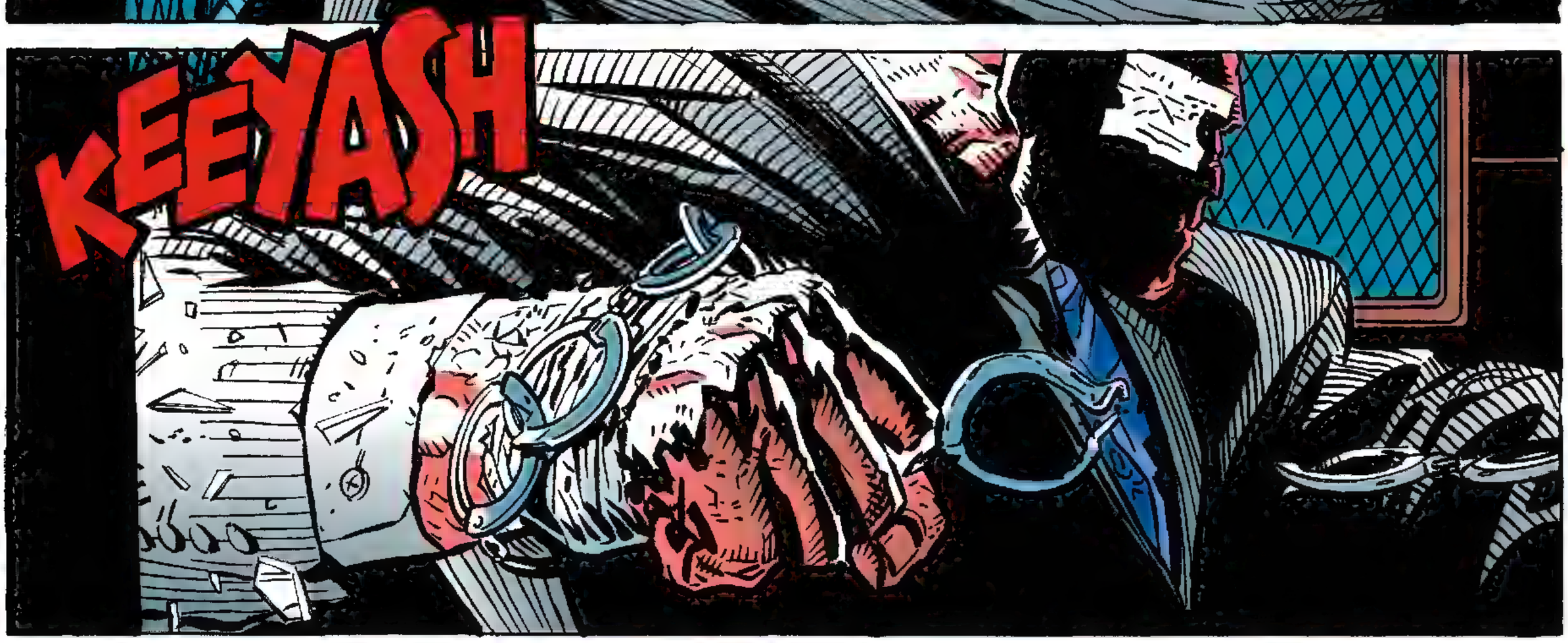
HEY!

IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL, WHO WALKED OUT ON ME--

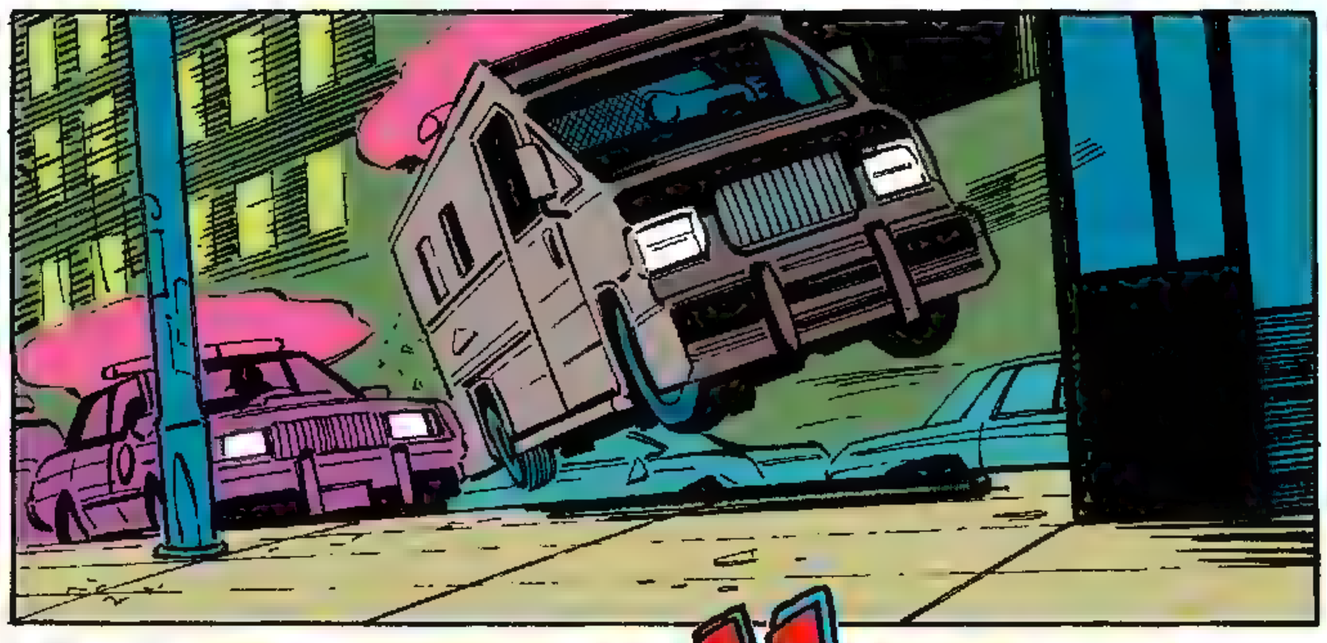
--TELL HER I'M SORRY-- TELL HER I NEED MY BABY!

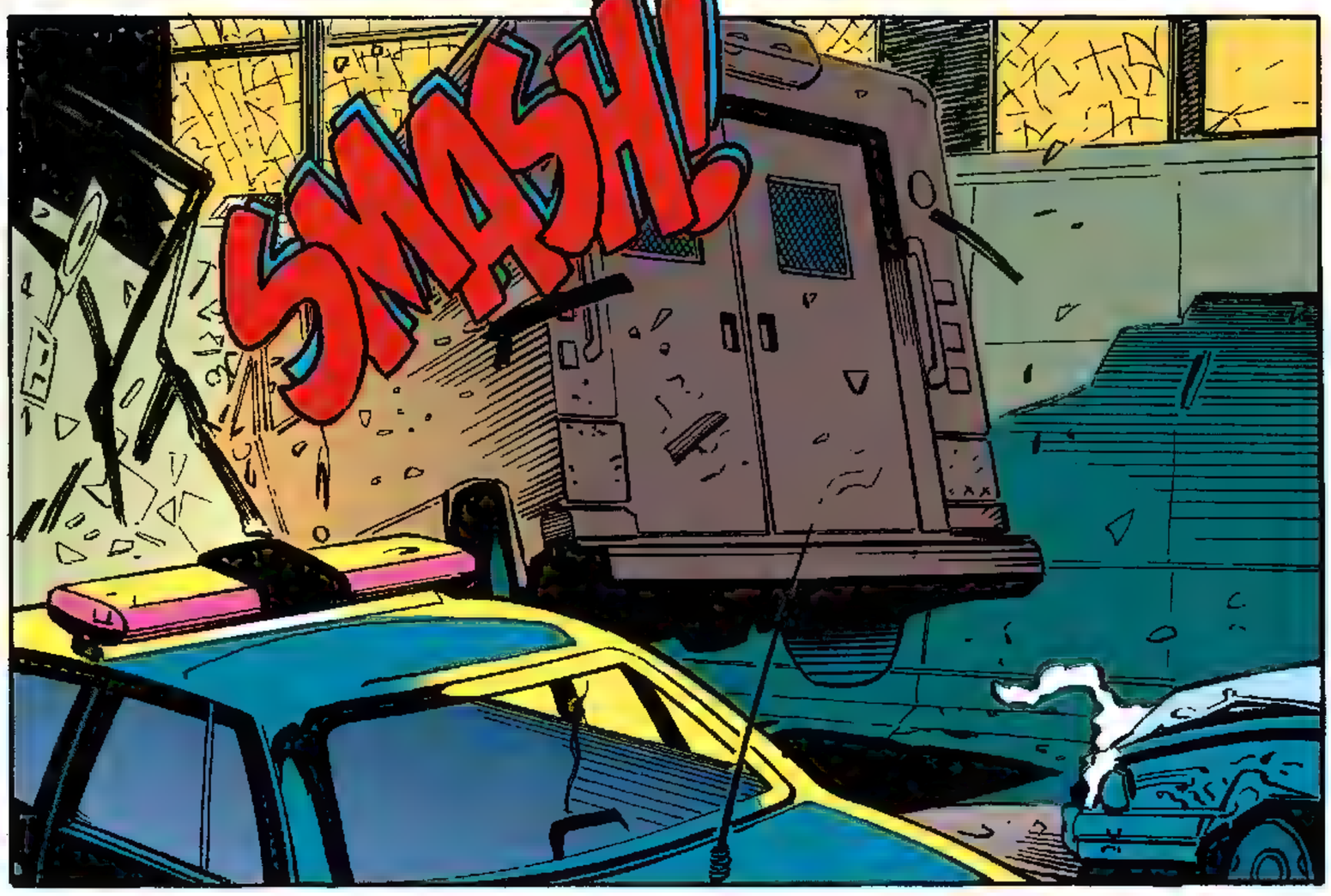
OOH, WON'T YOU TELL HER!! THAT I LOVE HER.

HEY!


KEEYASH

GAAA!
BIG CITY
SWAT
POLICE




SMASH!

DON'T SHOOT! DON'T SHOOT!!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

NOOO!!

BAH BOOM BOOM BOOM

ELSEWHERE, LATER, OTHER CHARACTERS.

Alas, Sore Morris. I poo-pooed him, Pistachio.

PITH WILLIAMS

STANLEY

HEY, THERE HE IS!

BE GONE, PIP-SQUEAKS.

ARCHIE, WE'VE BEEN DRIVING AROUND AND CLIMBING FENCES ALL NIGHT CHASING YOU.

UNLESS YOU WANNA MAKE ME MAD, YOU BETTER LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

NO ARCHIE HERE.

All subjects will address me as...

...the High Holy Hoity-Toity.

WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

IS THERE SOME Spinach ON MY TEETH?

HEWH!

WHOK

BAM BAM BAM

GEEZ, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

FOR STARTERS, YOU CAN GET OUT OF OUR WAY!

LET GO OF THE KID, WALTER!!

BANG

AAAH!

POK!

Unh!

KRAK

NICAS

VASILY 1897 1994

EDNA 1901 1985

TOGETHER FOREVER

R.I.P. GIOVANNI FRATELLINO 1950

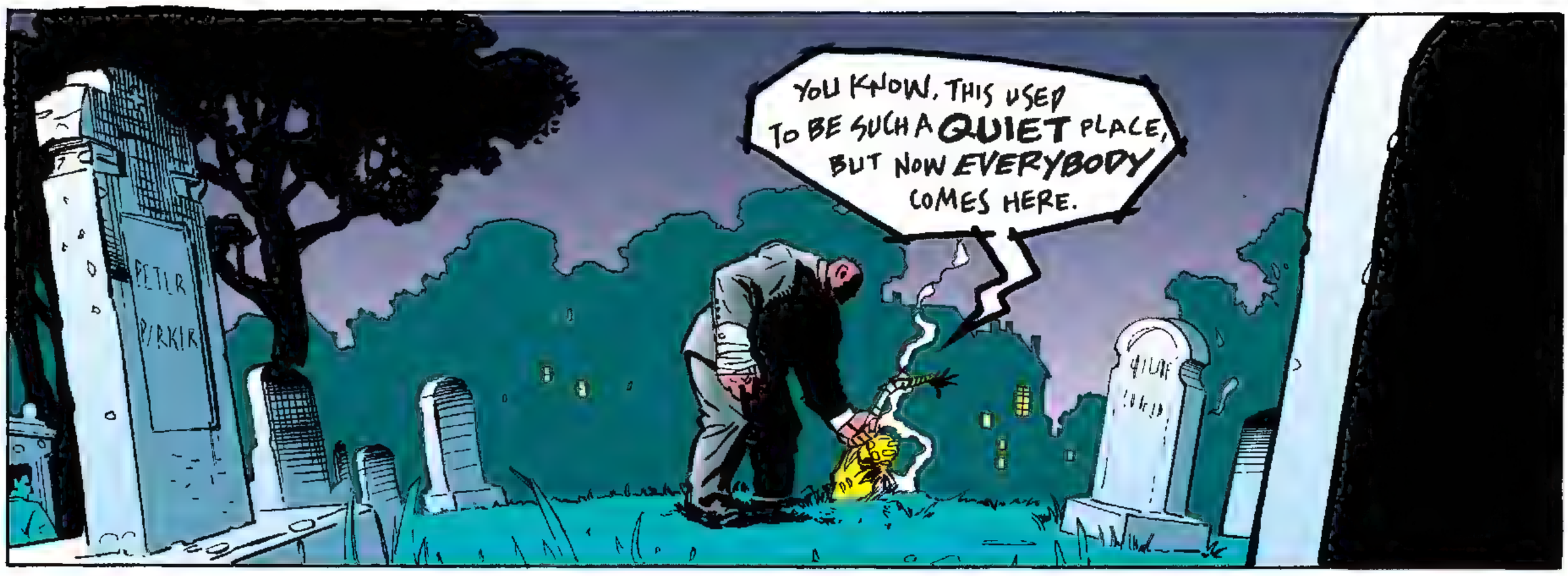
HEY, HOW'D YOU FIND US?

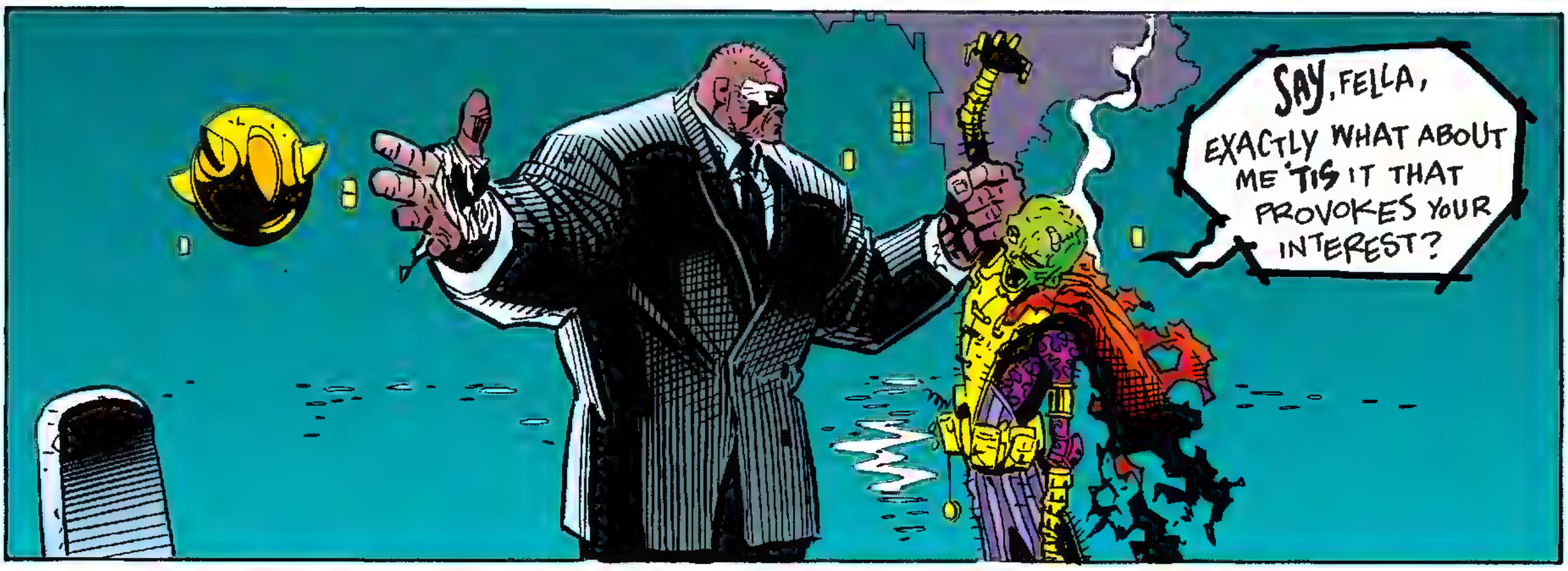
HUGO, IS THAT REALLY IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW?

LOOK-- MY CAR'S PARKED OUTSIDE THE CEMETERY... RIGHT BEHIND THAT... *HEAP* YOU GUYS DRIVE.

I WANT... YOU ALL TO GO THERE... USE THE RADIO TO CALL IN A 10-13.

TELL THEM TO GET AN *AMBULANCE* AND... SOME BACK-UP HERE, *A.S.A.P.*--


PETER
PARKER
YOU KNOW, THIS USED TO BE SUCH A QUIET PLACE, BUT NOW EVERYBODY COMES HERE.


SAY, FELLA, EXACTLY WHAT ABOUT ME 'TIS IT THAT PROVOKES YOUR INTEREST?

SUDDENLY, I REGRET MY INQUIRY.

WHAM-A-DOODLE!!

ROAARRH!
PLOSH!

BE JABBERS! THIS IS ONE PERTURBULATED PUSSYCAT.

ARCHIE.

ARCHIE-- THE MASK.

Mask...?

YOU'RE LIKE ME. YOU JUST WANTED TO USE THE MASK TO *HELP* PEOPLE.

AND THEN YOU LET A BUNCH OF WILD ANIMALS OUT OF THE ZOO, *DIDN'T YOU?*

MAYBE NEXT YOU'LL CLEAN THE SEWERS-- WITH AN *A-BOMB!*

YOU'RE NOT IN *CONTROL*, KID, AND SOONER OR LATER, PEOPLE ARE GONNA GET *HURT.*

STOP- STOP IT! =sniff=

BOY. YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO HURT A GUY.

I THOUGHT I WAS SOMEHOW BETTER EQUIPPED TO HANDLE THIS THAN MY FRIENDS.

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T BLAME THE MASK FOR THAT BIT OF HUBRIS.

ANYWAY--

--IT'S OVER NOW.

GUUSHHH!

Ahhhh...

JUDAS PRIEST! PLEASE DONT!

NO, NO!!

clatta clack

THUK!

SHHLIP!

NO!

HHHSSSSIIIHM

NOOOO!

GET BACK HERE, YOU SON OF A BITCH!! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

WHERE'S THAT %#©ING BACK-UP?!?

Whew!

EXIT

EPILOGUES USUALLY GO RIGHT ABOUT HERE.

WOW! SOME WEEK, huh?

SAY, HOW COME KELLAWAY DIDN'T CHARGE US WITH ANYTHING?

MAN, DIDN'T YOU LISTEN TO THE DUDE?

HE WORE THE MASK ONCE, TOO. WHAT'S HE GONNA DO, TURN HIMSELF IN?

MY, LOOK AT THIS-- THE COCOON IS OPEN. MY BUTTERFLY HAS EMERGED.

BUTTERFLY? I THOUGHT IT WAS SOME KINDA WORM.

WAS. IT WAS.

YOU SEE, THAT'S REAL MAGIC.

NOTHING ILLUSORY ABOUT IT. AN UNQUALIFIED MIRACLE.

SQUAWK

The End

DM72

ON
OFF
DIED
TODAY

DM+KW

THE BEST-SELLING COMIC TRILOGY THAT INSPIRED THE BLOCKBUSTER FILM *THE MASK* IS COLLECTED IN THIS OMNIBUS EDITION OF GRUESOME HILARITY!

A WEIRD MASK OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN AND POWER IS DISCOVERED and imbues its wearer with limitless cartoon character invulnerability that takes the nerdy Stanley Ipkiss, the police, the mafia, and the monstrous mob muscleman Walter on a violent collision course of homicidal mayhem, lunacy, and destruction!

Collects *The Mask*, *The Mask Returns*, and *The Mask Strikes Back*!

DARK HORSE BOOKS®

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"